

Testimony of

**Mannone A. Butler**

Executive Director

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

**FY 2016 Performance Oversight Hearing**

**Committee on the Judiciary**

**The Honorable Charles Allen, Chairman**

**Council of the District of Columbia**

Monday, February 13, 2017

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Good morning, Chairman Allen. I am Mannone Butler, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). I am pleased to appear before the Committee today to provide testimony on CJCC’s FY 2016 strategic priorities, performance, and accomplishments. I am joined by Charisma Howell, CJCC’s Deputy Executive Director.

The CJCC is an independent agency dedicated to improving public safety and the administration of criminal and juvenile justice in the District of Columbia. 2016 marked CJCC’s 15th year as the mechanism through which the CJCC members (also known as Principals) comprised of District’s executive, judicial, legislative and justice agency leadership identify, coordinate and implement a multitude of criminal justice system strategic priorities and initiatives.

Through information sharing, research and analysis, interagency collaboration, and facilitating the identification and implementation of criminal justice best practices, the CJCC tirelessly works with the CJCC members and a myriad of stakeholders to support the policymaking, technical assistance and training needed to improve public safety and justice in the District of Columbia.

Each year, CJCC Principals convene to identify the strategic priorities for the upcoming year. These priorities shape the nature, scope and direction of the CJCC’s work. A direction is then charted to accomplish each priority and CJCC staff support a number of cross-functional taskforces, workgroups and subcommittees to achieve that end, including:

* The Justice Integrated Information System (JUSTIS), the District’s Integrated Justice System, which is the primary consolidated data exchange system used by the District’s law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. JUSTIS allows related agencies to access “real time” information through the information portal and the system-to-system exchange ”data feed” module, which are vital to sharing data between and among judicial, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies;
* The Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) provides effective and rigorous data collection and analysis in response to system-wide needs and research questions;
* Combating Violent Crime Workgroup, evaluates and enhances the District’s efforts to combat gun violence;
* The Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce (SATMHSIT), improves the treatment options for criminal justice-involved individuals with mental health issues, substance abuse problems, or co-occurring disorders;
* Adult Reentry Steering Committee focuses on high risk offenders and seeks to lower recidivism and successful reentry of those returning to the District after incarceration;
* Juvenile Justice Committee, which uses data, information sharing, the identification of innovative programs and services along with the provision of technical assistance to enhance the juvenile justice system;
* Grants Planning Committee, which works to improve the number and quality of grant applications submitted to funders and establishes policies and procedures that assist justice agencies seeking local, federal, and foundation funding; and
* Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Workgroup, which maintains and exercises the interagency criminal justice system’s emergency plans.

Progress made on this portfolio of public safety priorities is directly attributable to the collective work of the CJCC members, their staffs, stakeholders and the CJCC staff.

Before I provide a few of the CJCC’s 2016 performance highlights, I want to provide a window into the agency’s operations. In addition to myself, the staff consists of 17 full-time positions: 7 information technology professionals are responsible for the 24/7 maintenance and operations of JUSTIS (1 position is vacant), 4 research professionals conduct the Statistical Analysis Center’s analyses and research, 4 policy professionals shepherd a number of the agencies strategic priorities, and 2 administrative professionals are responsible for the agency’s front and back office functions. The CJCC staff works with CJCC Principals and their staffs to translate the strategic priorities into tangible activities, benchmarks and outcomes. Formal monthly reports to the CJCC members along with regular discussions on the status of the priority areas and activities allow for a continuous feedback and response loop. Put simply, the CJCC is directed by the Principals to focus on established priority areas and use information sharing, research and data to distill these priorities into a course of action.

Here are a few examples of the work CJCC was engaged in this past year:

**Information Sharing**

In 2016, CJCC’s information technology staff were steeped in extensive design and development work to support JUSTIS system-to-system exchanges, maintenance and enhancements to the information portal and improvements to JUSTIS agreements and policies. Notable accomplishments include:

* The Arrest Feed Enhancement project, which will significantly expand the volume of arrest data shared in an automated fashion with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. The agencies participating in this project include MPD, USAO, OAG, PSA, CSOSA, DCSC and PDS. At the conclusion of 2016, partners were engaged in critical interagency testing. This project is slated to go into production by summer 2017.
* The Juvenile Papering Project which will automate the juvenile papering process was officially launched in 2015. MPD, OAG, DCSC, and CJCC finalized the business steps that will be automated through this project. The expected launch is September 2017.
* CJCC, MPD and DCSC pursued and received Bureau of Justice Statistics funding for the Warrant Exchange Project, which launched in the last quarter of calendar 2016, to automate the exchange of warrant-related information between DCSC and MPD via the JUSTIS system-to-system exchange and submission to the FBI. Extensive planning is underway among the partner agencies in furtherance of the multi-year project.
* The Mid-Atlantic Regional Information Sharing Initiative is a multi-year undertaking which will connect JUSTIS with the equivalent data sharing systems for Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. JUSTIS connected with Maryland’s data system in 2016. The plan is to complete the initial connections with all partnering jurisdictions in 2017.
* In keeping with JUSTIS’ NIST-compliant System Security Plan, the CJCC updated interagency information sharing agreements and privacy policies to align with best practices.

**Actionable Research**

In 2016, the SAC, CJCC’s research arm, produced the following research and analyses:

* Finalized trend analysis on the socio-economic, safety, and justice statistics for the Public Safety and Justice Report (2009-2014), which was published April 2016.
* Fielded research and analysis requests from CJCC member which included a custodial population study, juvenile recidivism analyses and the Youth Rehabilitation Act analyses.
* Published briefs on the following topics: New Psychoactive Substances, Restorative Justice, Super Utilizers, and Justice-System Involved Individuals (Infographic).
* Provided ongoing research and data analysis for CJCC priority areas including the Juvenile Justice Committee/Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Truancy Data, and Combating Gun Violence/Warrants/GunStat committees.
* Secured Bureau of Justice Statistics funding to (1) automate the Public Safety and Justice Report and (2) Leverage JUSTIS to plan and develop the Justice Statistics and Analysis Tool.
* Convened the Bridging Research to Practice Series, which serves as a vehicle for justice stakeholders to gain knowledge on best and innovative practices on emerging and pressing public safety issues from local and national experts. Topics addressed in 2016 included educational Interventions for improved youth outcomes, conducting meaningful evaluations, the state of women’s reentry in the District, and identifying repeat matriculators through multiple systems also known as Super Utilizers.

**Policy and Training**

Aligned with CJCC’s strategic priorities, a number of initiatives and technical assistance and training sessions were developed. Over the past couple of years, under the purview of the Combating Violent Crime Workgroup, the CJCC has worked with local and federal partners to establish a baseline for the District’s submissions to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the Interstate Identification Index (III), and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). As referenced earlier, CJCC, MPD and DCSC was awarded a Bureau of Justice Statistics grant to improve the number of warrants and protective orders submitted to the FBI. In addition, the CJCC has continued to facilitate interagency GunStat sessions which focus on tracking gun cases as they progress through the criminal justice system while identifying trends, strengths and weaknesses of the process.

In September 2016, the CJCC and 12 local and federal justice partners held the District’s third Safe Surrender initiative which provided individuals with low level bench warrants an opportunity to address their unresolved legal matter in a safe and expedited fashion. On three consecutive Saturday’s a total of 344 participants voluntarily surrendered to DC Superior Court, addressing 383 cases.

In 2016 the CJCC, in collaboration with partners, convened numerous technical assistance and training workshop, programs and meetings designed to professionally develop and educate agency partners, justice stakeholders and the community on pressing issues.

* The CJCC produced a report on the myriad of cross agency initiatives and strategies undertaken by Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration partners to address the mental health and substance abuse issues confronting the justice system. In keeping with efforts to address these issues, Mayor Bowser signed a participation letter joining the District of Columbia to the White House Data-Driven Justice initiative, a bipartisan coalition of over 139 city, county, and state governments who have committed to using data-driven strategies to divert low-level offenders with mental illness out of the criminal justice system. The CJCC facilitates this initiative on behalf of the District.
* The CJCC convened its 7th Annual Juvenile Justice Summit. The Summit’s theme was “Restorative Justice: A Bridge to Improving Education and Justice for Youth”. The Summit attracted over 600 registrants, a blend of District of Columbia juvenile justice agency professionals, educators, social workers, juvenile justice system-involved youth, parents, and community stakeholders. Through a series of plenary sessions and workshops, Summit attendees’ explored ways in which restorative practice concepts can be effectively used to reduce violence and youth recidivism, increase accountability, heal victims impacted by crime, and strengthen District communities.
* In response to our partners’ request for baseline information on federal funding secured by the District to support adult and juvenile justice, the CJCC compiled information on all FY15 and 16 federally funded discretionary grants that were supporting government and non-profit efforts in the adult and juvenile justice domains. The also CJCC convened the Grant Writing and Management Training Series on local, Federal & foundation Funding opportunities, developing grant applications and grant management and compliance.
* The Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) work group completed two trainings on interagency and interoperable communications and a full-scale exercise in 2016.
* The CJCC convened public meetings, “Addressing the Harm: A Community Conversation About Crime Victims, Their Needs, & Effective Criminal Justice Responses” and “Strategic Focus on Girls and Women in the Criminal Justice System: Creating Pathways to Promise and Success”*,* provided an opportunity for the community to express concerns and talk with public officials and experts about current and potential criminal justice strategies.

In closing, I want to acknowledge CJCC’s Principals and partners for their dedication to addressing and improving the complex public safety issues in the District. I also want to take this opportunity to thank CJCC’s incredibly talented staff for their hard work and relentless commitment to achieving the agency’s mission. Chairman Allen, thank you for your active participation and engagement over the past month. I am prepared to respond to any questions you may have.