



**The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Chairwoman
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia**

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
FY 2025 Budget Oversight Hearing**

Testimony of
Kristy Love
Executive Director

Wednesday, April 10, 2024



Good morning, Chairwoman Pinto and members of the committee. I am Kristy Love, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). I am also joined by Fre Deresso, our Agency Fiscal Officer.

CJCC's mission is to serve as a forum for identifying challenges and generating solutions to enhance public safety and the fair administration of justice in the District of Columbia. The CJCC is comprised of 19 members who are supported by 22 agency staff across three divisions—the Information Technology team, the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and the Policy team, along with executive and administrative staff. CJCC agency staff have four core functions: (1) facilitate automated information sharing; (2) conduct research and analysis; (3) facilitate interagency collaboration; and (4) provide training and technical assistance.

CJCC's approved budget for fiscal year 2024 was \$4.92M. The Mayor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 is \$4.41M, which is an overall decrease of 10%. This includes a 17% reduction in local funding, primarily due to the removal of a one-time enhancement.

We understand that due to the projected revenue shortfall for the District over the next few years, the Mayor and Council will have to make very difficult budget decisions. Therefore, we are especially grateful that the Mayor included a \$160K enhancement in CJCC's FY25 budget to help cover costs due to the agency's increased responsibilities under Secure DC. (Even though the Fiscal Impact Statement indicates that this additional funding would be for a new position, the proposed budget categorizes this as nonpersonal funding, which precludes us from using the funding to hire additional staff. I look forward to working with either Council or the Mayor's budget office to resolve this issue.)



As stated, while we appreciate the Mayor's enhancement, given that Secure DC has more than doubled the workload of CJCC's Statistical Analysis Center staff, and considering the taskforce the CJCC is required to convene per Secure DC, we are seeking an additional \$170K, beyond the Mayor's enhancement, to help ensure CJCC is able to meet its legislative responsibilities. The additional funding will be used to hire staff to conduct analysis and lead the taskforce.

CJCC Responsibilities Under Secure DC

Secure DC requires the CJCC to convene a Prearrest Diversion Task Force that is responsible for identifying best practices and making recommendations regarding eligibility, as well as programs, facilities, personnel, funding and legislative changes needed to support prearrest diversion. The task force is also required to identify potential improvements in police training and procedures for persons affected by homelessness, substance use, or mental health challenges. Additionally, the task force is charged with actually implementing a prearrest diversion program. Given the operational function of this taskforce—to not only make recommendations, but to also implement a prearrest diversion program—CJCC will need additional policy resources to manage this new responsibility.

Secure DC also requires the CJCC to conduct one-time analyses, including a report on juvenile pretrial detention, adult pretrial detention, and witness assistance in the District. Considering that these are one-time analyses, we are able to carry out this responsibility with existing resources. However, for the witness assistance study, we are seeking clarification from Council regarding the scope. Is the focus of the study specifically on witness assistance that is distinct from victim assistance? If so, then based on preliminary discussions with the agencies listed in the legislation (including MPD, OVSJG, OAG, USAO, and DC Superior Court), only USAO provides assistance specifically to witnesses who are not also victims. In addition, our understanding is that USAO's witness assistance program is based on policies and procedures that apply to the



entire U.S. Department of Justice. Therefore, requiring CJCC, a District agency, to evaluate and make recommendations regarding policies and procedures of a federal department, seems beyond our jurisdiction. Instead of being evaluative, perhaps the CJCC could provide descriptive information regarding USAO's witness assistance program; the type of assistance witnesses have requested and that USAO has offered; and a review of the literature on best practices.

While the CJCC can absorb costs associated with the one-time analyses, we will not be able to do so for the routine analyses required under Secure DC. The Act requires the CJCC to issue the following reports for the foreseeable future:

- *Monthly* reports on (1) violent crime incidents and (2) adult and juvenile arrests for violent crimes.
- *Quarterly* reports on the full spectrum of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, including: (1) Diversion; (2) Pretrial supervision; (3) Detention; (4) Prosecution; (5) Sentencing; (6) Commitment; (7) Incarceration; (8) Probation; (9) Parole; (10) Supervised Release; (11) Deferred Agreements and Consent Decrees; and (12) Bench Warrants.
- *Annual* reports on felony crime statistics, including arrests, convictions and characteristics of suspects and victims.

Complying with the legislative requirement for these routine analyses will more than double the number of analytical products the CJCC issues. For example, in FY23, CJCC issued 68 research and analytical products, whereas under Secure DC, CJCC would be required to issue an additional 117 products a year, for a total of 185.¹

¹ The 117 additional products include 24 monthly dashboards on violent crime incidents and violent crime arrests; 92 quarterly dashboards on various aspects of the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and 1 felony crime statistics report.



In order to meet the monthly and quarterly reporting requirements, the CJCC has already had to cut back on other analyses. We have discontinued the monthly Gun Violence Dashboard and Justice System Operations Dashboard that were provided to our members. We have also had to decline some requests from our partners for *ad hoc* analyses to support their decisionmaking. In the absence of additional resources, the CJCC may have to discontinue or scale back other routine analyses for our various committees to meet the Secure DC mandates.

We are also considering opportunities to create more efficiencies to manage the increased workload, such as working with partner agencies to provide data feeds that would enable us to automate the creation of the quarterly dashboards. However, establishing these data feeds would still require additional IT resources in the short term.

We also respectfully ask Council to consider whether other legislatively mandated reports that the CJCC is required to generate, such as the Human Trafficking report and the Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act report, continue to be a high priority; and if they are, whether the scope could be modified.

Crime Victimization Survey Task Force

In addition to Secure DC, in December, Council also passed the Crime Victimization Survey Amendment Act (Act A25-0342), which requires the CJCC to engage a contractor to conduct a Districtwide, biennial survey on crime victimization. The Act also requires the CJCC to convene a Crime Victimization Survey Task Force to advise on the goals, focus, scope, themes, and design of the survey, among other things. The Fiscal Impact Statement estimates that the cost of the survey will be \$400K in FY24 and \$415K in FY26. However, we recognize that the legislation has not been funded. We look forward to beginning this work if the funding becomes available.



Closing

Beyond the need for additional funding to comply with Secure DC, the proposed FY25 budget adequately supports CJCC's ability to carry out its other core functions of automated information sharing, interagency collaboration, and training and technical assistance.

As I close, I want to thank the CJCC staff for their incredible work and dedication to the mission. Also, thank you to our diligent and responsive OCFO colleagues for their ongoing budget support.