

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL 23-0127, THE “SECOND LOOK AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019”

AND

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENTENCE REVIEW PROVISIONS OF THE
INCARCERATION REDUCTION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2016**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
Room 123, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004**

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public hearing to consider Bill 23-0127, the “Second Look Amendment Act of 2019”, and to discuss the implementation of the sentence review provisions of the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 (section 306(b) of D.C. Law 21-238; D.C. Official Code § 24-403.03). The hearing will take place in Room 123 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 1:00 p.m.

In 2016, the Council passed the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016 (“CYJAA”) (D.C. Law 21-238), which took effect in April 2017. One section of the CYJAA – titled the “Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016” or “IRAA” – created a new procedure for individuals who have been sentenced for D.C. Code offenses as juveniles, have served twenty years in prison, and have not yet come up for parole, to petition the D.C. Superior Court to have their sentences reviewed. A number of individuals currently serving lengthy sentences have begun the petition process, and several have been released following a thorough judicial review.

Three months ago, the D.C. Council passed, and the Mayor signed, Bill 22-0255, the “Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2018”, one section of which amends IRAA to decrease the number of years required to be served before petitioning from 20 to 15 and include

individuals who have come up for parole. This bill is now undergoing congressional review and is expected to become law in three months.

The purpose of Bill 23-0127, the “Second Look Amendment Act of 2019”, is to align the age before which individuals must have committed an IRAA-eligible offense with similar criminal justice sentencing reforms for young adults passed by the Council and jurisdictions across the country. Instead of individuals having to have committed an eligible offense before age 18, the proposed legislation would raise the age to before age 25. The bill also would require all individuals brought back to the District from the Bureau of Prisons for their IRAA hearing to be housed in the Department of Corrections’ (“DOC”) Correctional Treatment Facility, rather than in the Central Detention Facility.

In addition, the hearing will review the status of IRAA’s implementation, including the statute itself, the assignment of legal representation to petitioners, the petition process, the experiences of those held in DOC on writs while their petition is pending, reentry planning for those in DOC’s care, and the post-release reentry experience. The goal of the Committee’s IRAA oversight is to reflect on the statute since its passage and create opportunities for partnerships and improvements to support successful reentry for those released.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should contact the Committee via email at judiciary@dccouncil.us and provide their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by **close of business Friday, March 22**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses should bring **twenty copies** of their written testimony and, if possible, also submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us. **The record will close at the end of the business day on April 9.**