

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

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

**ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON**

**THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES**

**Thursday, October 14, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Roundtable via Zoom**

**To Watch Live:**

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>

<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

On Thursday, October 14, 2021, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public oversight roundtable on “The Operations of the Department of Forensic Sciences”. The roundtable will be conducted virtually via Zoom from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Department of Forensic Sciences (“DFS”) is an independent District agency whose statutory mission is to provide “high-quality, timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science services[.]”<sup>1</sup> DFS’ Forensic Science Laboratory Division collects, examines, analyzes, and reports on physical evidence submitted in criminal cases, including through firearms examination.

On March 22, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General shared the *Final Report of Review and Audit of Selected Casework of the Firearms Examination Unit of the Forensic Science Laboratory Division, Department of Forensic Sciences* (“Final Report”) with the DFS Stakeholder Council and other District and federal entities. The Final Report – conducted by an independent audit team of the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Attorney’s Office – raised serious concerns about DFS’ integrity and independence, including in its firearms examination casework, quality assurance processes, and management practices.

On April 2, 2021, the ANSI National Accreditation Board suspended its accreditation of the Forensic Science Laboratory Division for what it deemed credible evidence of deliberate concealment of information, violations of accreditation requirements, and misrepresentations and fraudulent behavior, as raised in the Final Report.

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Official Code § 5-1501.02(b).

The agency has subsequently undergone significant operational and management changes and is pursuing reaccreditation.

The purpose of this public oversight roundtable is to continue the Committee's oversight of DFS' operations following its March 8, 2021, performance oversight hearing and April 29, 2021, public oversight roundtable, and to explore these operational and management changes and the ongoing implications for the District's criminal justice system.

The Committee invites the public to provide oral and written testimony. Public witnesses seeking to provide oral testimony at the Committee's roundtable must thoroughly review the following instructions:

- Anyone wishing to provide oral testimony must email the Committee at [judiciary@dccouncil.us](mailto:judiciary@dccouncil.us) with their name, telephone number, and if testifying on behalf of an organization, organizational affiliation and title, by the **close of business on Friday, October 8, 2021.**
- The Committee will approve witnesses' registrations based on the total time allotted for public testimony. The Committee will also determine the order of witnesses' testimony.
- Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals (and any subsequent representatives of the same organizations) will be allowed a maximum of three minutes.
- Witnesses are not permitted to yield their time to, or substitute their testimony for, the testimony of another individual or organization.
- If possible, witnesses should submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to [judiciary@dccouncil.us](mailto:judiciary@dccouncil.us).
- Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation are requested to inform the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than five business days before the roundtable. The Committee will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received fewer than five business days before the roundtable may not be fulfilled.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be emailed to the Committee at [judiciary@dccouncil.us](mailto:judiciary@dccouncil.us) **no later than the close of business on Friday, October 29, 2021.**