

Trayon White

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish an Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs to serve as a bridge between concerned civilians and the DC Central Detention Facility to collect information that potentially exposes and reduces issues within the corrections system to ensure and protect the safety and rights of incarcerated individuals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Office of Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs Establishment Act of 2021”.

Sec. 2.

(a) The Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall be established as an independent impartial public office that serves the District of Columbia by promoting positive change in corrections and at the DC Central Detention Facility;

(b) The Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall investigate complaints related to incarcerated individuals’ health, safety, welfare, and rights;

(c) The Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall provide information to incarcerated individuals and families regarding self-advocacy;

(d) The Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall identify system issues;

34 (e) The Office of the Ombudsman and Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall monitor and
35 ensure compliance of the DC Central Detention Facility with relevant statutes, rules, and policies
36 regarding the treatment of incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of the DC Central
37 Detention Facility;

38 (f) Correspondence and communication with the Office of the Ombudsman and
39 Incarcerated Individual Affairs shall be confidential and privileged.

40 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

41 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
42 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
43 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D. C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

44 Sec. 4. Effective date.

45 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
46 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
47 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
48 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the district of
49 Columbia Register.