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Statement of the Council for Court Excellence

**Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety
And the Committee of the Whole**

Council of the District of Columbia

**Regarding the Proposed FY2027 Budget for the
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

Chairperson Pinto other Committee and Council Members, we appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the budget of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. CCE is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with the mission to enhance justice in the District of Columbia. For more than 40 years, CCE has worked to improve the administration of justice through research and policy analysis, convening diverse stakeholders, and creating educational resources for the public. Please note that in accordance with our policy, no judicial member of CCE participated in the formulation or approval of this testimony. This testimony does not reflect the specific views of, or endorsement by, any judicial member of CCE.

CCE strongly supports retaining full funding for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). CJCC serves a critical role in the District's justice system: it enables collaboration and data sharing among D.C. and federal agencies; hosts educational community events; produces timely reports; and creates innovative solutions to public safety and justice challenges. Notably, this year they have facilitated the process of developing a Crossover Youth Practice Model and the Prearrest Diversion Taskforce, two issues CCE has championed. Keeping CJCC's budget intact is vital for their being able to continue to do the work that is so important to ensure District residents have fair and effective legal and justice systems.

CCE wants to highlight one of the most important "under the radar" tasks that is CJCC's responsibility: hosting and managing the Justice Information System (JUSTIS). First implemented in 2002, JUSTIS is an online hub where both District and Federal entities can exchange and share both

adult and juvenile criminal justice information almost in real time.¹ The system is available to all the included agencies.

The criminal legal system in D.C. is very complicated due to the number of agencies, both federal and local, that are involved with the District. JUSTIS is thus important for research and information gathering when it involves criminal justice statistics. We were pleased that the proposed JUSTIS budget includes an increase in local funds. Information sharing is key to addressing the most important issues in the criminal legal system.

While we know that there are many fiscal challenges, given the critical role JUSTIS plays, we urge the Council to maintain the funding in the proposed budget. Thank you.

¹ The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the District of Columbia, History of the District of Columbia Justice Information System (JUSTIS), November 2021 chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://cjcc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cjcc/page_content/attachments/History%20of%20JUSTIS%20for%20website.pdf