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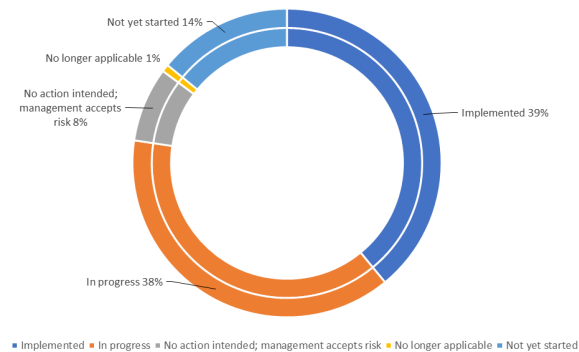
ODCA Recommendation Compliance Report Shows Successes, Challenges

Report focuses on recommendations aimed at police use of force, education data

February 9, 2023 (WASHINGTON) Some 77% of recommendations by the D.C. Auditor are “In Place” or “In Progress,” and another 14% of recommendations have not yet been started by D.C. government agencies and the D.C. Council, according to a new compliance report by the Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA).

ODCA tracked 128 “open” recommendations—those that ODCA had not been able to confirm as implemented or no longer applicable. The status of all recommendations are available in [a sortable report on the ODCA website](#).

ODCA found that 39% of the recommendations had been implemented, 38% were in progress, 14% percent had not yet been started, 8% percent had no action intended (according to the responsible party), and 1% were no longer applicable.



The report is intended to make public the implementation status of the recommendations made to District of Columbia government entities. From October 20, 2022, through December 31, 2022, ODCA tracked 128 “open” recommendations—those that ODCA had not been able to confirm as implemented, no longer applicable, or agency management responded that no action is intended; management accepts risk.

Twelve of the open recommendations were directed to the D.C. Council related to clean energy, D.C. Code changes, and legislative initiatives on education data improvement. In recent years, the report notes that the D.C. Council has begun requiring a program performance report to include the status of efforts to comply with the Auditor’s reports as a part of the budget submission requirements resolution.

Also, D.C. Council Committees, as part of the annual performance oversight review process, have been formulating questions based on ODCA reports, including status of ongoing audits, recommendations implemented, and ways to improve agency operations in general. In addition, the D.C. Council has held public oversight roundtables on topics directly related to ODCA reports.

“We welcome the continued opportunity to work collaboratively, without duplicating efforts, to monitor and review recommendations made with the continued collaborative goal of improving city government operations and accountability,” said D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson.

ODCA focused its compliance report on recommendations on the following issues:

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Officer-involved fatalities and examining the use of force at the MPD. The Bromwich Group provided ODCA with analysis of the status of MPD’s implementation of recommendations made in the latest in a series of case studies of MPD investigations—[The Metropolitan Police Department and the Use of Deadly Force: Four Case Studies 2018-2019](#) and [The Metropolitan Police Department and the Use of Deadly Force: The Deon Kay Case](#), both done by Bromwich. Bromwich’s analysis found that 30 of 35 recommendations were implemented, including those related to ensuring that investigations by the MPD Internal Affairs Division and oversight by the Use of Force Review Board are more comprehensive, and that MPD develops policies governing foot chases and defining the purpose and function of the Crime Suppression Teams.

Review of MPD’s other recommendations shows that IAD has broadened its investigation and analysis of Use of Force incidents, and MPD has reinstituted the Force Investigation Team (FIT) and published and updated MPD General Order (GO) on Use of Force, and a new FIT manual in 2022.

Further, following an ODCA recommendation to begin publicly releasing investigative reports, MPD made a commitment to begin releasing reports by the end of November 2022, and as of November 30, 2022, had published nine summary releases regarding events occurring in 2022 and added additional summary releases in January 2023 to their website.

Education data. The overall finding of [a two-volume education data audit](#) in March 2021 was that the District is not yet collecting and effectively using data on a range of key education topics including attendance, enrollment, discipline, courses, teachers, and student-teacher links. That report directed four recommendations to the D.C. Council and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), including enacting legislation requiring collection, use and effective governance over a comprehensive data collection.

The report notes that OSSE has moved forward on a data collection on courses and issued a privacy policy as recommended by ODCA. With regard to legislation, the report notes that an education data bill consistent with ODCA recommendations was introduced in the last Council period by Councilmember Mary Cheh, but no hearing was held, and the bill did not move forward.

Substance Abuse Disorders and incarcerations in D.C. ODCA enlisted the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) for follow-up on 17 recommendations from the report, [Everything is Scattered...The Intersection of Substance Use Disorders and Incarcerations in the District](#). As CCE notes, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) have taken some steps to address the issues identified in the report.

Lottery and gaming. ODCA followed up with the Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG) on recommendations included in two audit reports issued in 2021. In the report, [D.C. Lottery Needs Standard Procedures to Improve Operations](#), ODCA made five recommendations regarding evaluating or implementing agency policies as well as standard operating procedures. As noted in Appendix A, OLG responded that no action is intended, and agency management is accepting the risk that accompanies the associated finding on four of the recommendations. Review of recommendations made to OLG in the report, [Weakness Cited in Monitoring Lottery Contract CBEs](#), to ensure that contracting officers are able to review all invoices and work performed by contractors found that, while OLG did make improvements to their process, ODCA was not provided evidence that OLG is receiving and reviewing monthly invoices for all Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs), including work that is not for reimbursable costs on the contract.

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The mission of the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) is to support the Council of the District of Columbia by making sound recommendations that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the District government. Learn more at www.dcauditor.org.