

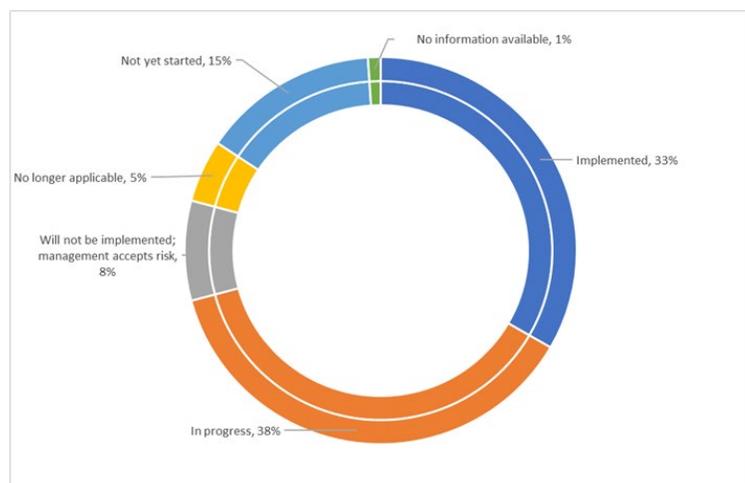
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ODCA Recommendation Compliance Report Shows Successes, Challenges Actions by the D.C. Council include changes to the D.C. Code & legislation pending

February 3, 2022 (WASHINGTON) Some 71% of recommendations by the D.C. Auditor are “In Place” or “In Progress,” and another 15% of recommendations have not yet been started by D.C. government agencies and the D.C. Council, according to a new report by the Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA).

ODCA tracked 96 recommendations contained in 15 of its reports issued from December 2018 through December 2020, including Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, and the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021. Through January 7, 2022, ODCA tracked 96 “open” recommendations—those that ODCA had not been able to confirm as implemented or no longer applicable. The status of all recommendations we followed up on is available in a sortable report on the ODCA website.



ODCA found that 33% of the recommendations had been implemented, 38% were in progress, 15% percent had not yet been started, 5% percent were no longer applicable, 1% had no information available, and 8% percent will not be implemented, according to the responsible party.

Twenty-two of those recommendations were directed to the D.C. Council primarily focusing on changing the Code of the District of Columbia (D.C. Code). ODCA was able to confirm four instances where a change to the D.C. Code occurred and note below several other instances where D.C. Council committees with jurisdiction over the relevant section of the D.C. Code are considering legislation.

Specifically, the Council’s activity relating to recommendations includes:

[RPTAC Should Continue Work to Protect Against Conflicts & Improve Transparency, Timeliness, & Data Quality](#). ODCA’s first recommendation to the Council in this report to move RPTAC commissioners from part-time/hourly contractors to D.C. government employees, as required by D.C. Official Code, or change the law has been implemented.

[Poor Conditions Persist at Aging D.C. Jail; New Facility Needed to Mitigate Risks](#). Several recommendations in this report, issued in February 2019, have been addressed by the Department of Corrections (DOC). And, in response to an Auditor Concern that D.C. Code does not require the agency to inspect the Correctional Treatment Facility, the D.C. Council made changes to the D.C. Code in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act to have the Department of Health conduct a minimum of three inspections per year and included

funding for additional staff. The report findings, though, speak to the continuing and underlying need to budget, plan, and construct a new Jail facility, with the third ODCA recommendation in the report reading: “The District should move forward with a new D.C. Jail.” As noted in the background section of the report, planning for the construction of a new jail has been discussed by prior mayoral administrations dating back at least 12 years. However, aside from preliminary discussions there appears to be no focused effort to address this need, including the creation of a capital project in the budget to begin the design and construction. The Council Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety indicated that adequate funding should be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvements Plan as proposed by the Executive. Moving forward as a priority in the approved Fiscal Year 2023 budget and financial plan by the Mayor and the D.C. Council would comply with the ODCA recommendation.

[Low-Ranked Projects Secure Affordable Housing Funds](#). Legislation introduced by 12 Councilmembers consistent with the first recommendation in this report for greater transparency in RFP and selection procedures is currently before the Committee on Housing and Executive Administration (HEA).

[2008 Clean Energy Law Spurs Progress But District Can Do More to Cut Emissions](#). The Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) did not agree with Recommendation 8 in this report, “To more effectively align District regulatory policy with its climate goals, the Mayor and Council should consider establishing a zero-carbon electricity standard which would provide a technology-neutral mechanism for encouraging new investments in carbon-free electricity generation.” Nevertheless, the D.C. Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment is currently considering legislation to make the Construction Code Appendix Z (Net Zero) compulsory (Bill 24-42012) and to codify the District’s emissions goals (Bill 24-26713). The Committee held a hearing January 25, 2022, on both measures.

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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.