



September 17, 2012

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PRESS ADVISORY

**Drug Court Commemorates National Recovery Month
with a Graduation and Cookout**

WHAT: Drug Court Commencement Ceremony and Cookout

WHEN: **Thursday, September 20, 2012, 11: 30 AM**

WHERE: **Fort Lincoln Park – 3100 Fort Lincoln Road, NE**

WHO: **Mayor Vince Gray**
Council Chair Phil Mendelson
Judge Frederick Weisberg, Judge, DC Superior Court
Cliff Keenan, Director, Pretrial Services Agency of the District of Columbia

Drug Court is a special court calendar designed to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent substance-abusing defendants. The program also strives to increase the defendant's likelihood of successful habilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially-supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

Eligible drug-addicted persons may request to be transferred to Drug Court in lieu of traditional criminal justice system case processing. [Drug Courts](#) keep individuals in treatment while supervising them closely. While in drug court, participants are

- provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober;
- held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families;
- tested for drug use;
- required to appear in court frequently so that the judge may review their progress; and
- rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations.

NOTE: Judges will be available for interviews.

Participants may be photographed or interviewed with their permission.

Please coordinate with on-site DCSC or PSA staff for assistance identifying participants.

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