

PRESS RELEASE

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CATANIA CONGRATULATES D.C. JAIL ON HEALTH CARE ACCREDITATION

Health Care Program is Certified by Two National Accrediting Organizations

Washington, DC – Today, Councilmember David Catania (At-Large) congratulated the medical services department of the D.C. Jail and Unity Health Care, Inc. for receiving accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), as well as the American Correctional Association (ACA). This marks the first time in the department's history that it has been simultaneously accredited by two national accrediting organizations.

“This is welcome news for the Department of Corrections” said Catania. “It shows that our corrections system is taking important steps to improve the quality of health care provided to our inmate population.”

In 2006, Catania spearheaded the change to a community-oriented model of healthcare in the D.C. jail. He facilitated a partnership between Unity Health Care Inc., and the D.C. Department of Corrections to address the needs of inmates who require physical and mental health treatment. Unity Health Care is now responsible for administering general health and psychiatric treatment to inmates in the D.C. jail. Unity provides a full continuity of care for inmates during their incarceration and upon their release. By working with Unity, inmates are directly linked to health services in the communities to which they return.

The Department of Corrections is the first detention system in the country to receive accreditation using ACA's 2008 standards, the most rigorous requirements developed by this organization to date. An independent organization, ACA is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world and is dedicated to excellence in every aspect of the correctional field.

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