

ally. The daily number of inmates averages over 3,000. The Center is a pretrial detention facility for any person committed or transferred to the custody of the Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services. The Center, as authorized by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, also may house any person held in custody by any agency of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The Warden is appointed by the Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services with the approval of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 4-1407 through 4-1414).

#### CENTRAL BOOKING & INTAKE FACILITY

Alfred I. Murphy, *Warden*

300 East Madison St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 545-8100

The Central Booking and Intake Facility opened in July 1995 in Baltimore City. All adults arrested in Baltimore City are processed or "booked" at the Facility. Previously, suspects were booked at district police stations around the City. The Facility includes Pretrial Release Services; the District Court Commissioners for Baltimore City; the Office of State's Attorney for Baltimore City; and Baltimore City Police Services (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 4-1414).

The Facility uses the Automated Booking System, designed to become a statewide criminal justice information network. Currently, six counties and the Facility are part of the System. With uniform data entries, the System quickly identifies a detainee, and any previous criminal history or outstanding arrest warrants.

The booking process begins with a bar-coded bracelet assigned to the detainee for tracking purposes. Then, the detainee's personal, descriptive and demographic information is entered into the System. Biometric identification is done by laser scan digitized fingerprinting and digitized video photos, which can be transmitted electronically for quick comparison.

Meanwhile, the arresting officer enters data into the System about the arrest and charges. This report goes to an on-site District Court Commissioner who conducts an initial hearing to determine probable cause, set bail, and assign a trial date. After identification, the detainee is interviewed by a pretrial investigator. Booking then is completed. With new technology, the process is expected to take under four hours.

After booking, the detainee either is released on recognizance, posts bail, or is assigned to the Facility. For intake, the detainee is issued a new bar code with a Maryland identification number and photograph, and undergoes a video bail review by a judge, eliminating the need to transport suspects to District Court. The efficiency of the process is intended to reduce the number of people jailed before trial and save the costs of housing defendants.

#### PRETRIAL RELEASE SERVICES

John R. Camou, *Director*

Robert S. Weisengoff, *Deputy Director*

Mitchell Courthouse, Room 508  
100 North Calvert St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 333-3833

Formerly under the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the Pretrial Release Services Division became a unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in 1985 (Chapter 725, Acts of 1985). In 1988, the Pretrial Release Services Division was established as a separate division within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chapter 474, Acts of 1988). The Division was reorganized as a program within the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services in 1991 (Chapter 59, Acts of 1991).

Pretrial Release Services investigates all defendants awaiting trial in criminal proceedings before the Baltimore City Circuit Court and the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City. The Program then provides the courts with verified information regarding the defendant's ties to the community and special problems such as alcoholism, drug addiction, or residential placement needs. The Program also makes recommendations to the courts regarding pretrial release or detention of defendants awaiting trial.

Of some 51,978 defendants screened annually, the Program supervises and monitors approximately 19,000 defendants for whom the court orders pretrial release. Urine testing surveillance is used for some of these defendants. At trial or in subsequent proceedings, the Program reports to the court on the defendant's compliance with the terms of pretrial release. These compliance reports are used for sentencing decisions and, in some instances, plea bargaining negotiations.

To minimize unnecessary incarceration, the Program develops alternative sanction plans under court supervision, and arbitrates or mediates disputes when requested by the court. Under scrutiny of the courts, the State's Attorney, and the Public Defender or private counsel, the Program presents and defends alternatives to prosecution.

In addition, the Program reviews the status of defendants in pretrial detention in the Baltimore City Detention Center. To reduce overcrowding, the Program recommends options to the court, such as scheduling early trials; monitors writs, detainers, and violations of court orders; and further investigates the feasibility of recognizance or reduced bail for some defendants.

The Director and Deputy Director are appointed by the Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services with the approval of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 4-1401 through 4-1406).