



*DJJ discusses security protocols designed to ensure resident safety at Juvenile Justice Committee hearing on April 21<sup>st</sup> .*

## **Deputy Commissioner Davis Testifies Before City Council Juvenile Justice Committee**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) testified before the New York City Council’s Juvenile Justice Committee on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, discussing safety and security in its facilities. Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Detention Jerome Davis was joined at the hearing by General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs Herman Dawson, Assistant Commissioner for NSD/SEEDS Stephanie Prussack, and Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning Chris Fisher.

The Department testified that it considers the safety of its juvenile residents one of its guiding priorities and devotes as many resources as possible to ensure a safe and secure environment for youth in secure and non-secure detention. DJJ officials discussed in detail measures the Department has taken to enhance safety for all youth in detention. As part of this continuing responsibility, the DJJ has expanded surveillance with an upgraded camera system, increased searches to prevent the introduction of contraband into the facilities, and employed the assignment of staff to steady posts. Safety has also been enhanced through ongoing training of direct Childcare staff, implementation of the Resident Advocacy Program (RAP), and amendment of the abuse and neglect allegation protocol to reflect the State child abuse law.

Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Detention Jerome Davis testified, “Having a detention system that is safe and sound is a priority because it helps youth improve their behavior and it increases the likelihood that they will respond to programming; and later on, successfully transition home to their communities.”

