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Mayor Seeks Answers To DC Jail Shooting

Written by 9 News

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A DC Jail inmate remains in the hospital more than 24 hours after another inmate somehow got a hold of a gun and opened fire from behind bars. Many are wondering how a gun got inside the secure facility where even the correction officers are prohibited from carrying weapons.

Four inmates shot inside a place where they are kept to keep out of trouble Saturday afternoon. Three of the inmates were treated and sent back to jail, the fourth victim is still hospitalized with what is being described as non-life threatening injuries.

DC Mayor Anthony Williams said it's something that should have never happened; he is now looking into the incident searching for answers.

Doug Sparks is a DC lawyer who has represented dozens of DC jail inmates and is currently suing the city on behalf of the family of Givon Pendelton, a 24-year-old inmate who was stabbed to death in the Southeast DC correctional facility last December. Pendelton was awaiting trial on drug charges. Sparks says based on clients he has represented such as Pendelton, he not surprised by Saturday's shooting.

In fact the chairperson for the Fraternal Order of Police's correction officers told members at an oversight hearing committee last year

that, "Essential equipment and staffing have been sacrificed...placing lives at risk and immediate action must be taken."

The DC jail's population cap was lifted earlier this year, increasing the inmate population by nearly 700 on some days, when the number of correction officers has remained level after more than 300 officers were cut from the payroll almost three years ago.

To see Doug Buchanan's full report, click "Play Video."

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