

PRESS
RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 10, 2014

Contact – Robin Campbell, robin.campbell@doc.nyc.gov, (718) 546-0635

DOC APPOINTS THREE SENIOR OFFICIALS

Leaders of Human Resources, Correction Academy, and Applicant Investigation Unit to Help Implement New Era of Staff Recruitment, Training, and Retention

East Elmhurst, New York – Commissioner Joe Ponte has appointed three new senior officials to help carry out his plan to substantially revise and improve staff recruitment and training at the Department of Correction. Dina Simon has been named Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, effective Monday, October 8. Penny L. Jones was promoted to Warden on September 2 and charged with overseeing the Correction Academy, and Dr. Larry Johnson was named Executive Director of the Department’s Applicant Investigation Unit, effective September 1.

“At the end of the day, the Department of Correction’s performance is the direct result of the performance of its officers. To achieve the highest levels of professionalism, we need to hire, train, and retain the most qualified men and women and then give them the tools and support they need to do their job with confidence. In each of their respective roles, Deputy Commissioner Simon, Warden Jones, and Executive Director Johnson will play a crucial role in seeing this happen,” Commissioner Ponte said.

Dina Simon joins the Department of Correction from the Office of the New York City Comptroller where she was Director of Human Resources. She previously served in a variety of roles related to human resources and labor relations with increasing responsibility, including positions with the New York State Education Department, New York State Office of Developmental Disabilities, Norfolk State University, and the Navy Exchange Service Command Center. She is a graduate of the State University College at Brockport and Earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Long Island University, C.W. Post. As Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Simon will oversee and manage the entire scope of the Department’s human resources operations.

“This is an historic time at the Department of Correction and I will apply my skills and experience to ensure that Commissioner Ponte’s reform agenda is reflected in the men and women who join and serve this organization, which is so crucial to public safety in New York City,” said Deputy Commissioner Simon.

Warden Pennye L. Jones joined the Department in 1989 and served as a Correction Officer in the Brooklyn Detention Center and West Facility. She was promoted to Captain in 2002 and assigned to the George R. Vierno Center. In 2005 she was promoted to Assistant Deputy Warden at the North Infirmity Command. From 2009 to 2011, she served as Executive Officer to the Correction Academy. Following her promotion to Deputy Warden in 2011, Jones served at the Manhattan Detention Complex, the Eric M. Taylor Center, the Rose M. Singer Center, and the Otis Bantum Correctional Center. As Warden at the Correction Academy, her responsibilities include managing the Department's internal and external training initiatives, developing new training, including field training, managing professional standards for all uniformed employees, and overseeing the Firearms and Tactics Unit.

"I am looking forward to ensuring that the Correction Academy provides the practical and effective professional development needed to make the New York City Department of Correction a model for correction professionals everywhere," said Warden Jones.

Dr. Larry Johnson joined the Department of Correction in 2002 and worked as an Associate Counselor for the Programs Division until 2004, when he became a Manager of Information Technology. In 2010, he transitioned to Section Supervisor for the Human Resources Division. Dr. Johnson also served eight years with the US. Army National Guard, rising to the level of 2nd Lieutenant. He received a Doctorate in Education from Fielding Graduate University, a Master of Human Services from Lincoln University, and a Bachelor's Degree from Fisk University. As Executive Director of the Applicant Investigation Unit, Dr. Johnson will ensure that the Department hires qualified candidates for the uniform service by managing a team of experts to provide extensive psychological written and oral exams, medical exams, agility tests, and diligent background investigation.

"The Applicant Investigation Unit provides the Department's first opportunity to make sure that DOC staff have what it takes to do a difficult job well. This is a serious responsibility and under my leadership the AIU will give this task all the care and attention it deserves," Dr. Johnson said.

About the New York City Department of Correction

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) is the jail system for New York City. It operates Rikers Island, which houses 10 individual facilities, four borough-based jails and two hospital prison wards, as well as court pens in all five boroughs. In FY 2013, DOC had 81,758 admissions involving 58,814 individuals. Its Average Daily Population is approximately 11,500, nearly 80 percent of whom are housed on Rikers Island. Most of the inmates in DOC custody are being detained pending the resolution of charges against them; approximately 15 percent are city-sentenced inmates who are serving sentences of one year or less.

###