

As prepared for delivery

Commissioner's Graduation Remarks

June 28, 2018

Good morning and welcome to our newest officers, DOC staff, family, friends, visiting law enforcement and members of the military

I would like to take a moment to recognize and welcome our special guest speakers, First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan, and the Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, Councilman Keith Powers

Recruits, in a few short moments, you will make the transformation from an ordinary citizen to a sworn law enforcement officer.

The public has bestowed their trust upon you to carry out the duties of your office with integrity and professionalism each and every day.

Your journey to this ceremony was long

You competed against thousands of applicants and passed every test necessary to make it to the academy

You survived all of the mental, physical and academic challenges of the past six months.

You worked hard and sacrificed time with your loved ones and friends

But it was worth it. This is YOUR time

And now, you become a member of the elite family of almost half a million correctional officers spread out across the country- over 10,000 of who serve right here with you at DOC as NYC's Boldest!

Tomorrow, as you begin the duties you have been prepared to assume

Remember that every interaction you have throughout the day, reflects your character and spreads your reputation

My advice to you is this:

Know your job and DO your job, with courage and confidence

Never take action based on emotion

Do not become complacent – remain inquisitive and vigilant

Seek out others who are motivated to excel

And serve with compassion- for none of us are without fault

You have entered the law enforcement profession during a time of great public scrutiny and harsh judgement

Negativity floods the news channels as well as print and social media

Most people do not understand, appreciate or are willing to do what we do.

But, if you maintain your integrity, follow your moral compass, be the change agents and the future leaders of this agency

The words of *Theodore Roosevelt* will ring truer than the negativity and reaffirm your commitment to corrections:

“It is *not* the *critic* who counts,
not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled,
or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena,

whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood,
who strives valiantly,
who errs and comes up short again and again,
who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions,
and spends himself in a worthy cause,
who at best knows achievement and who at the worst
if he fails
at least fails while daring greatly
so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither
victory nor defeat.

Congratulations and welcome to the arena of public safety.