

# PRESS RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 25, 2014**

## **DOC APPOINTS TWO NEW WARDENS**

East Elmhurst, NY – New York City Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Joe Ponte has appointed two new wardens. Kenneth Stukes has been appointed warden of the Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC) on Rikers Island, and Karen Collins has been appointed warden of the Vernon C. Bain Center (VCBC) in the Bronx. Both assignments were effective as of June 10, 2014.

“The future of the Department of Correction depends on strong, professional leadership at all levels. Ken Stukes and Karen Collins have demonstrated the knowledge, experience and judgment that any warden needs to be a successful leader,” Commissioner Ponte said.

“This promotion is a great honor and I am excited to be returning to OBCC, where I first served as a Captain back in 1999,” said Warden Stukes, who joined the Department in 1987 and was most recently Deputy Warden in Command at the Anna M. Kross Center in the Mental Health Center.

“I am very pleased to be given this opportunity to serve the City of New York, and to work with Commissioner Ponte and the staff at VCBC,” said Warden Collins. Collins joined DOC in 1989 and most recently served as Deputy Warden at the Eric M. Taylor Center on Rikers Island.

The former warden of VCBC, Rose Agro, retired on June 12. OBCC’s former warden, Lisa Cooper, is also retiring.

### 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.

The **Otis Bantum Correction Center** opened in June 1985. OBCC has dormitory and cell housing and includes the Department's 400-bed Central Punitive Segregation Unit. The **Vernon C. Bain Center** is a five-story jail barge permanently docked near the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. VCBC houses medium to maximum security inmates in 16 dormitories and 100 cells. It opened in 1992 and serves as the Bronx detention facility for intake processing.

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