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Seasoned Veteran Martin J. Murphy Named Chief of Department of Correction

East Elmhurst, N.Y. – New York City Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner Joe Ponte has appointed Martin J. Murphy as Chief of Department, DOC’s highest-ranking uniformed position. Chief Murphy was formerly the Acting Chief of the Department. The appointment took effect on February 13, 2015.

“Chief Murphy is an outstanding corrections professional,” Commissioner Ponte said. “During the time we have worked together, he has proven himself a committed leader. His skills in all areas of correctional practice are second to none, and his personal example inspires admiration throughout the department. As we institute the reforms that we expect will make our jails safer and improve outcomes for inmates, Chief Murphy will play a leading role.”

“It is truly a great honor to be named Chief of Department. I am looking forward to making our city’s jails a model for the nation,” Chief Murphy said.

Chief Murphy supervises every uniformed member of service in the Department of Correction, including Assistant Chiefs, Wardens, Deputy Wardens-in-Command, Deputy Wardens, Assistant Deputy Wardens, Captains and Correction Officers.

Chief Murphy began his career in the Department in 1987. He was originally assigned to the Brooklyn House of Detention. He was later promoted to
Captain in 1997 and served at both the James A. Thomas Center and Otis Bantum Correctional Center. In 2007, he was promoted to Assistant Deputy Warden and served at the George R. Vierno Center and the Headquarters Division. In 2010, he was promoted to Deputy Warden and assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Department. He was promoted to Deputy Warden in Command and assigned to the Office of the Commissioner on April 11, 2011. In 2014, he was promoted to Bureau Chief of Custody Management, and he was named Acting Chief last November. Murphy succeeds William Clemons, who retired on December 1, 2014.

About the New York City Department of Correction

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) manages the jail system for New York City. It operates Rikers Island, which includes ten individual facilities, four borough-based jails and two hospital prison wards, as well as court pens in all five boroughs. In FY 2014, DOC had 77,141 admissions involving 56,218 individuals.

The Average Daily Population in 2014 was approximately 11,400, over 80 percent were 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.

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