



Ned Lamont
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Office of the Commissioner



Angel Quiros
Interim Commissioner

TO: All DOC Staff
FROM: Angel Quiros, Interim Commissioner
DATE: July 8, 2020
SUBJ: **Agency Greeting**

Angel Quiros
7/8/2020

With the departure of Commissioner Cook, I wanted to reach out to you in an effort to answer some of the questions that inevitably arise during a transition in leadership.

Above all else, I want you to know that the Agency's principal focus will continue to be on the operating of safe facilities, and also on our responsibility to prepare individuals for successful reentry.

In my role as Interim Commissioner, I intend to do much more than simply keeping the seat warm. Having weathered the incredible tsunami that was the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredible – above and beyond – efforts during the crisis. Although the pandemic presented countless challenges, I was (and continue to be) amazed by our staff's selfless dedication and unity during the ongoing healthcare crisis.

However, we cannot let our collective guard down. We must continue to develop and improve our pandemic plan and preparations in the chance that there is a resurgence of the virus. For advise on how to further improve upon what I believe was the Agency's incredible response to nearly impossible conditions I will rely on you, our staff. This collaborative approach of leadership relies on the experts in the field – you, and your invaluable firsthand experience and input, as we continue to carry out our vital mission during these unsettling times.

I can guarantee you one thing as we prepare for a potential second wave or sporadic flare-ups of the coronavirus, safety and wellness are, and will always remain, my primary concerns.

In light of the tragic circumstances surrounding the murder of George Floyd, there are two additional initiatives that are high on my priority list. One is the creation of a workgroup to analyze the Department's practices and policies as they pertain to racial relationships. Additionally, a committee to review, and revise our agency's use of force training curriculum and polices has been created, with the goal of ensuring that only the proper level of force is used in every situation.

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In relation to both the previously mentioned initiatives, I am proud to also announce is the Agency's new strategic plan. While serving as Deputy Commissioner, I worked closely with the other members of the Executive Team to help create the new strategic plan which places a premium on the human dignity of each and every individual.

As I mentioned earlier, the nation's current struggles surrounding the complex issue of racial inequality demonstrate the need for a renewed focus on basic human decency and respect. Additional details regarding the new strategic plan will be revealed in the near future.

Having spent more than 30 years as a member of this department, I am truly honored to serve this agency in the capacity of Interim Commissioner. In the interest of full disclosure, it would be an even greater honor if I were to be selected as the next "fulltime" Commissioner.

My hope is to continue to build on the Connecticut Department of Correction's legacy as a national leader in criminal justice reform, with a focus on safety first, coupled with rehabilitation, and the responsible reentry of offenders. With approximately 95% of the incarcerated population eventually returning to the community, we simply must prepare individuals under our supervision as best we can - giving them the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Again, please accept my sincere gratitude for your professionalism and incredible dedication to the Agency's mission. Regardless of what the future may bring, I am certain of one thing - I can always count on you, our staff, to rise up, adapt to, and overcome any challenge that lies ahead. I promise to do my best, in whatever role, to support you and the important work you do.

Stay healthy, stay safe.