

DOC NEWS ONLINE

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MAYOR APPOINTS S. ELWOOD YORK, JR., ESQ., AS INTERIM DIRECTOR



Last month DC Mayor Anthony A. Williams appointed S. Elwood York, Jr., as Interim Director for the Department of Corrections. Mr. York has more than 20 years of experience as an attorney and correctional facilities manager. He began working for the District government in January 1997 as the General Counsel for the Department of Corrections. His service with the agency included the Records Retention and Disposal Manager and as the External Confinement Administrator with supervisory oversight of Internal Affairs, Warrant Squad, Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), Medical Services, Food Services, and Community Corrections.

Mr. York, in an open letter to the DOC staff stated, "This continues to be a time of great change in, and progress for the agency. I am excited about the opportunity that I have been given to lead the agency to a higher level of excellence." Mr. York recently worked briefly with the Youth Services Administration's Oak Hill Facility in Laurel, Maryland, where he served as Deputy Administrator for Secure Programs. He has also worked in the US Virgin Islands as the Acting Bureau of Corrections Director, and Principal Assistant Attorney General; and in Texas as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney, Municipal Judge, and Adjunct Professor (Thurgood Marshall School of Law).

DOC UNVEILS NEW FACIAL RECOGNITION DATABASE SYSTEM

A recent demonstration before area law enforcement agencies provided the DOC an opportunity to showcase its new Facial Recognition Database System running at the DC Jail. Believed to be the first system in the region, facial recognition is a form of technology that is designed to create a digital map of a person's face, translating the contours into mathematical formulas that are nearly as distinguishable as a fingerprint.

This face print is then compared with a database of images. In partnership with Viisage of Billerica, Massachusetts, DOC converted over 50,000 images into a secure accessible, facial recognition database. The facial searches provide real-time results of potential matches, providing agencies with critical



Keith Godwin, Chief of Network Operations, gives a briefing to corrections and law enforcements from the metropolitan area.

identity information when law enforcement personnel are given false or inaccurate information. According to DOC Interim Director S. Elwood York, "This technology will have a tremendous impact on correctional systems, serving as a management tool to enhance the control of inmate movement and accountability and also address identification concerns among visitors."

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Anthony A. Williams, Mayor
District of Columbia Government



S. Elwood York, Jr., Esq., Interim Director



DOC STAFF UPDATES

The staff of the DOC mailroom, which was moved last fall from the DC Jail to the Grimke Building, has increased by two with the addition of newly hired office clerks, **Yamica Drayton** and **Kenisha Rowe**.

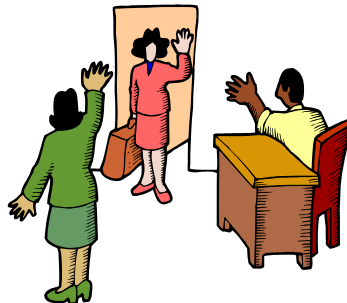
Three former DOC employees returned in February to their positions as correctional officers. They are **Robert Murphy**, **Elton Rush**, and **Catherine Spriggs**.

Officer **John Chestnut** retired in January. He began his career with DOC on June 26, 1988 as a Correctional Officer assigned to the Central Facility, Laundry Services. After the closure of Central Facility in 2002, Officer Chestnut was assigned to the CDF where he assisted in expanding the Laundry Services.

Another January retiree was Lead Correctional Officer **Earvin Doughty, Jr.** Officer Doughty joined DOC on June 6, 1981 as a Correctional Officer. He also served on the Emergency Response Team.

After the closure of Lorton in 2002, he was assigned to the CDF. In 2003, he was detailed to YSA to provide external security to the Oak Hill Facility.

Correctional Officer **Winston Mighty**, a 23-year veteran of DOC, retired in February. His career with DOC began in February 1982 when he was assigned to the Maximum Security Facility at Lorton. He was later assigned to Facilities Management as a Correctional Officer (Pesticide Worker). Officer Mighty was assigned to the CDF when the Lorton Facility closed.



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**Thanks to the following people for
contributing news, articles, and updates
to this month's issue of
DOC NewsOnline**

**Betty Green
Barbara Hart
Lt. Karen Holmes-Gray**

**Every DOC employee is invited to
submit article suggestions for the
newsletter.**

Let us hear from you for the next issue!

THE DEPARTMENT HONORS EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Two high priority items among former Director Odie Washington's list of duties to wrap up his tenure with the DC Department of Corrections were the selections of the department's top employees of 2004. "This was not an easy task because we had so many good people to choose from," Director Washington said. The selections were made in February from the twelve *Employees of the Month*, and four *Customer Service Employees of the Quarter* for 2004.

Corporal Juan Walters (May 2004 Employee of the Month) was chosen as the 2004 Employee of the Year, and **Betty Green** (4th Quarter Customer Service Employee) is the 2004 Customer Service Employee of the Year.

Cpl. Walters, who joined the Department in 1978, is responsible for maintaining the orderly flow of inmate traffic to and from the housing units, visiting room, and medical unit. He also ensures that all inmates proceed directly to their destination by the most direct



Cpl. Juan Walters and former Director Washington.

route and without undue delay. Cpl. Walters demonstrated his exceptional correctional skills in challenging an inmate who was wearing civilian attire, to produce identification for passage. When the inmate could not produce identification, he was detained and had to be subdued before his identity could be determined. His attempt to access the area was determined to be an escape attempt and he was subsequently interviewed and housed in the Special Management Unit. Cpl Walters ability to think and react quickly, foiled the inmate's plan and prevented an escape. "The supervisory staff of the number three shift are especially proud of Cpl. Juan Walters," said Captain Heyward Bonaparte, #3 Shift Administrative Captain. "His attitude and work ethic have inspired a new sense of vitality and attention to detail in his co-workers and his supervisors alike." "It was unbelievable to me when I was chosen for the month

of May," Cpl. Walters said. "But to be the one the Director picked for the whole year is quite an honor! My mother and family in the Dominican Republic will be thrilled about this."

Betty Green, a thirty-one year employee of the agency, is a Management Analyst in the Office of Human Resource Management. Fred Staten, Ms. Green's supervisor said he recommended her for the



Betty Green and former Director Odie

Customer Service of the Quarter Award because she consistently demonstrates "loyalty, dedication and positive customer service in the management of several programs under her purview."

Her current duties require tracking former laid off correctional officers who no longer have priority placement and sending them notification letters of pre-employment offers for Term Appointments. This program mandates a collaborative effort with MEDAT for urinalysis screening, Internal Affairs for criminal background screening, and DC Office of Personnel which must make all official job offers based on suitability. The net effect is the agency's ability to immediately bring experienced correctional officers on board to fill critical deliveries of custody and security services. "Ms. Green in the performance of all her duties epitomizes the highest level of professionalism in the delivery of customer services," Mr. Staten added. "She is always polite, courteous and cooperative, no matter how difficult things may get."

Ms. Green, who is also a minister, expressed her joy on a spiritual plane, stating simply, "God is good."

Mr. Washington and the Executive staff recognized and congratulated these two outstanding members of the DOC workforce at an Executive Staff meeting in February.

CHARLES KIM RECEIVES ACA AWARD

Kudos go out to Industrial Engineer **Charles Kim** who was selected for an American Corrections Association (ACA) "Best in the Business" award. He was one of 17 awardees throughout the US and Canada.

A member of the Office of Management and Information Technology (OMITS), Mr. Kim played a major role in re-engineering the DOC Records Office operations. The top-to-bottom overhaul of the office resulted in a newly automated management system known as Jail and Community Corrections System (JACCS). The design is unique among corrections departments throughout the country. The changes required in the Records Office took nearly two years to complete. Deputy Director Patricia Britton said, "Mr. Kim readily met the definition of a seasoned, focused professional who was capable of making required adjustments and stayed on task even during some of the trying times."

The OMITS Director Thomas Hoey, Mr. Kim's manager, said, "What is also unique is that the DC Department of Corrections employs the only industrial engineers in the field. And we have certainly benefited from these skills. This award is also a tribute to the very high professional caliber of the department's staff."



Charles Kim

Interim Director of DOC, S. Elwood York, Jr. offered his congratulations to Mr. Kim, saying, "You make us proud!"

Mr. Kim said, "I feel privileged to have received this award, but it's really a reflection of the vision and support of Tom Hoey and former Director Odie Washington."

A FAMILIAR NAME IN THE NEWS

Michelle R. Elzie, a former DOC official, and one of the first female correctional officers at DOC, has been named Assistant Commissioner to oversee prisons in western Maryland. Ms. Elzie, a native Washingtonian, was most recently with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Miami, Florida. During her nearly 20-year tenure with DOC she rose through the ranks from correctional officer to warden to deputy director.



TAX-TIME TIPS

This is Tax Time, so don't forget some of the little things that might cause you a big headache...especially if you are expecting to get your refund quickly:

- *Check every page of your return to make sure it is complete.*
- *Make sure every required schedule is included in your package before sending it.*
- *Write legibly when making letter and number entries. (Use black ink and all CAPITAL letters)*
- *Double check math computations, or have someone else do it.*
- *Be sure your Social Security number is correct.*
- *Don't forget to sign your return.*
- *If you must pay, please be sure to include your **signed** check.*

FORMER DIRECTOR ODIE WASHINGTON SAYS FAREWELL TO DOC STAFF, DC GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS



Director Washington with his wife, Pat, and their children, Darryl, Kimberly and Sherryl.

The DOC workforce, DC colleagues and a host of friends and acquaintances turned out at receptions held on February 25 and March 4 to offer their thanks, best wishes, handshakes and hugs to Director Odie Washington. He leaves the DC Department of Corrections and Washington, DC after six years to return to his home and family in Illinois. Mr. Washington informed Mayor Anthony A. Williams in his February 1 resignation letter that his time at DOC “has been the highlight of my thirty-one years in government service.”

When asked what he would be doing upon his return to Illinois, Mr. Washington said, “I am still working out that plan. But I might give some thought to teaching or perhaps consulting.”



Odie Washington takes time to greet and chat with staff at his February “DOC family” farewell luncheon held at Grimke headquarters.



Sallie Thomas presents roses to Mrs. Elizabeth Washington, Director Washington's mother.

Delivering a parting message to the DOC workforce, Director Washington said,

“Together we have faced and overcome many challenges; together we have achieved significant milestones that will have a positive impact upon the future of the Department. It has been an honor and extreme pleasure to serve as your Director for

the past six years. I am truly grateful for your dedication, your support, and the contributions that you have made toward establishing a new DC Department of Corrections. Your efforts are deeply appreciated.”



Offering a touching message at his March Farewell Tribute at the Hotel Washington

*Thank you and best wishes
Mr. Washington!*