

Memorandum



Date: August 15, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Corrections Leadership Updates

The Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) continues to work diligently to make critical enhancements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the inmates in our custody and our Corrections personnel, and to improve process and outcomes in our jails. I am committed to continually investing in our Corrections Department and in supporting the teams doing this essential work, and over the last several months have been working hand-in-hand with Corrections leadership to find innovative solutions to support operations at our facilities and drive change within the organization.

To that end, I am announcing an update to MDCR leadership and organization, effective Tuesday, August 16, to enhance our leadership capacity across the department as we continue working to deliver on critical reforms.

- **JD Patterson will take on an expanded role as Interim Director of MDCR in addition to his role as Chief of Corrections and Forensics**, responsible for day-to-day administration and oversight of all activities of the Correction department. Since February, Patterson has served on special assignment overseeing MDCR, and I’m grateful for the essential role he has played in bringing his extensive experience in public safety to advancing critical and needed reforms to our correctional facilities. Patterson joined my administration as the County’s first Chief Public Safety Officer, after serving previously as Miami-Dade Police Department director from 2013 to 2016 and most recently as Assistant Police Chief for the City of Miami Gardens. He has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.
- **Cassandra Jones will take on a new role as the new Deputy Director of Community Affairs at MDCR**, responsible for coordinating and supervising all Community Affairs outreach, administration, operations, and public-facing activities. Deputy Director Jones will oversee community outreach activities related to re-entry, recruitment, criminal justice organizational relations, jail reduction, and communications. Activities and programs supporting employee health and wellness and mental health, referrals for assistance programs, and family welfare events will also be coordinated through this position. Deputy Director Jones has served as Interim Director of MDCR since February 2022 and I am especially grateful for her work driving forward corrections organizational change over the last several months.

I want to thank Chief Patterson and Deputy Director Jones for their continued dedication to enhancing operations at Miami-Dade correctional facilities, as we work to transform MDCR

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for the better and ensure the continued safety and security of our community. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs