


Memorandum



Date: December 14, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Mayoral Appointment – Director of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 2.02(C) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby appoint Colonel James Reyes to the position of Director of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR), effective January 16, 2023.

Our dedicated leadership staff and the men and women of MDCR have been working hard for many months to make critical progress on the terms of the Corrections Consent Agreement and Settlement Agreement, in place for nearly a decade, and to have the best possible processes in place for the safety and wellbeing of both our inmates and our officers. With the leadership of Chief J.D. Patterson, who has been on special assignment to turn our jails around and is now serving as Interim Director, and the guidance of our consultant and national corrections expert, former Sheriff Gary Raney, we have elevated our processes and policies to ensure we achieve full, lasting compliance with all remaining provisions of the settlement.

We are already seeing significant results, including a measurable reduction in instances of violence, expedited hiring to meet our staffing needs in the jails, and improved direct engagement and accountability with Corrections staff. To further our goals, we have successfully recruited a permanent director to shepherd these efforts forward.

We have been arduously searching for a new director for several months and have been relying on Gary Raney's expertise and national networks in our search process. The pool of qualified jail directors to take on this role, managing a corrections system with the size and complexity of MDCR, is extremely limited nationwide. That is why we are lucky that Colonel Reyes, current Executive Director of the Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Administration and Director of the Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention for several years, has agreed to leave his successful career in Broward to join MDCR.

Colonel Reyes rose through the ranks with the Broward Corrections Department and has extensive experience dealing with a Consent Decree from his time in Broward. He has spearheaded successful culture change efforts within that department and is the change agent we need here in Miami-Dade County.

Colonel Reyes holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Barry University. His resume is attached for your reference.

We are committed to ensuring that MDCR not only goes above and beyond the requirements of the Consent Agreement and Settlement Agreement, but also serves as a national leader and model for departments across the country. We aim to create a culture that is introspective, self-correcting, and fosters sustainable accountability. This is our vision as we work together to transform the Corrections

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and Rehabilitation Department. We believe we can get there, and Colonel Reyes is the leader to help us do it.

Please join me in congratulating Colonel Reyes on his appointment and in thanking Chief Patterson and consultant Gary Raney for their leadership and guidance in helping us secure the perfect person to lead MDCR into this next chapter.

Attachment

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts
 Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
 Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
 Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
 Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
 Department Directors
 Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
 Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
 Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
 Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Education

2015 University of Cincinnati

- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Alpha Phi Sigma, Criminal Justice Honor Society

2013 University of Louisville

- 67th Command Officer's Development Course

2012 Nova Southeastern University

- Executive Leadership Program

1999 Barry University

- Bachelors of Science in Criminology, *Magna Cum Laude*
- Alpha Chi, National College Honor Society
- Pi Gamma Mu, International Honor Society in Social Sciences

1995 Hialeah High School

- High School Diploma

Professional Career

January 2019 – Present (November 2022)

- Colonel, Executive Director, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Administration

- Current Responsibilities: Overseeing the Department of Administration for the Broward Sheriff's Office, which serves as a full public service agency that provides law enforcement, detention, fire rescue, and regional 911 communications to Broward County. The Department of Administration is comprised of the following departments:

Office of Management and Budget which facilitates and accounts for the agency's budget that exceeds 1 billion dollars as of fiscal year 21-22.

Finance Division is responsible for payroll for over 5,600 employees, and the agency's accounts payable, accounting, and grant writing, implementation, and management.

Purchasing Division which procures goods and services for the entire agency and provides contract oversight.

Fleet Services for over 3100 agency vehicles.

Facilities Management maintains the four county jails and supporting Department of Detention facilities.

Planning and Development maintains and provides a strategic plan for the agency's infrastructure which currently includes the ongoing construction of a 104,000 sq. ft. state of the art training facility and adjacent parking garage with the expected completion date of December 2023.

Records and Warrants Division is responsible for processing

and storing law enforcement data, maintaining and confirming criminal warrants, pickups, and writs. The division is also responsible for the maintenance and distribution of digital records as well as processing and answering the agency's public record requests.

July 2017 – January 2019

- Lieutenant Colonel, Director, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: The Broward Sheriff's Office operates one of the largest fully accredited jail systems in the country. Responsible for overseeing the Department of Detention's day to day operations, its 280 million-dollar budget, and its policies and procedures. The Department of Detention is comprised of approximately 1400 sworn and civilian personnel that are assigned throughout the county's four jails and the courthouse. Altogether, the Department of Detention has the capacity to house over 4,500 inmates and processes over 40,000 arrests annually. During tenure as Director, the Department of Detention achieved compliance and maintained accreditation from the following organizations: American Correctional Association, National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. In addition, in 2018, the Department of Detention successfully completed its first ever Prison Rape Elimination Act established by the Department of Justice.

October 2014 – July 2017

- Major, Assistant Director, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: (2015-2017) Overseeing the Department of Detention's Administration Division which was comprised of the following:
 - Investigations and Projects Unit which served as the Department of Detention's central repository for grievance, incident reports, and PREA related complaints. The unit also conducted and documented inspections in order to assure department compliance with all applicable vendor contracts, laws, and accreditation standards. In addition, the unit stored and provided data, analytics, and statistics to command staff for their consideration during day to day decision-making and strategic planning. The unit was also responsible for acquiring and using real-time intelligence to identify, intercept, and confiscate contraband, and detect other criminal activity taking place within the Department of Detention while serving as the liaison to the Broward Sheriff's Office Public Corruption Unit.
 - Classification Unit assesses inmates entering the Department of Detention in order to assign appropriate housing based on an objective classification system while developing and maintaining inmate management strategies for those who remain in custody.
 - Biometrics Unit is responsible for the positive identification of inmates, suspects, defendants and citizens through fingerprint analysis.

Facilities Management maintains the four county jails and supporting Department of Detention facilities.

(2014-2015) Overseeing the Department of Detention's South Operations which was comprised of the following:

Main Jail Facility is a maximum security jail that houses over 1,500 inmates, over 360 assigned personnel, and operates on a 43 million dollar budget.

Central Intake processes arrests for all Broward County law enforcement agencies and oversees inmate transportation in and out of Broward County.

Juvenile Assessment Center maintains temporary custody and processes juvenile arrests or delinquency referrals by Broward County law enforcement agencies.

Courthouse Security is responsible for maintaining care, custody, and control of inmates participating in legal proceedings within the county courthouse.

January 2013 – October 2014

- Captain, Facility Commander, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: (2013-2014) Overseeing the Central Intake Bureau's day to day operations which processes arrests for all Broward County law enforcement agencies and oversees inmate transportation in and out of Broward County. The bureau is also responsible for maintaining custody and control of inmates transferred out to medical and Baker Act facilities.
(2013) Overseeing the Joseph V. Conte Facility's day to day operations. The Joseph V. Conte Facility is a program intensive direct supervision jail that houses over 1,300 inmates, over 230 assigned personnel, and operates on a 30 million dollar budget.

July 2011 – January 2013

- Lieutenant, Shift Commander, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: Responsible for scheduling, payroll, training, and evaluation of staff assigned to the Main Jail Alpha Shift who maintained care, custody, and control of 1,500 inmates housed in the maximum security jail.

April 2006 – June 2011

- Sergeant, Unit Supervisor, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: Supervised staff assigned to the Mental Health Unit and the Maximum Security Unit who were responsible for providing care, custody, and control of inmates classified as such.

March 2001 - March 2006

- Detention Deputy Sheriff, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: Provided care, custody, and control of inmates

housed in the Mental Health Unit. Assignments as a deputy included being a Crisis Intervention Team member, Field Training Deputy, and Mental Health Program Deputy.

November 2000 – March 2001

- Detention Deputy Cadet, Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
- Responsibilities: Attend and successfully complete the Broward College 144th Corrections Academy and the state of Florida corrections certification process.

January 1999 - July 1999

- Intern, Dade County State Attorney's Office
- Responsibilities: Shadowed an Assistant State Attorney in order to gain experience of the criminal justice system.

Awards and Recognition

2022

- Bravo Award, presented by the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. Presented annually to an individual for dedication and leadership in public service and promoting diversity in the tri-county area of Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach.

2021

- Sheriff's Distinguished Service Award, Broward Sheriff's Office.
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (Office of Management and Budget), presented by the Government Finance Officers Association.

2020

- Honorable Service Award, Broward Sheriff's Office.
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (Finance Division), presented by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (Office of Management and Budget), presented by the Government Finance Officers Association.

2019

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (Finance Division), presented by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (Office of Management and Budget), presented by the Government Finance Officers Association.

2018

- Excelsior Award (Department of Detention), Presented by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.

2016

- Unit of the Year (Investigations and Projects Unit, Department of Detention), Broward Sheriff's Office.

2015

- Triple Crown Award (Department of Detention), Presented by the National Sheriff's Association.

2009

- Unit of the Year (Mental Health Unit, Department of Detention), Broward Sheriff's Office.

Professional
Affiliations and
Membership

2016-2018 Appointed to the Broward County Public Safety Coordinating Council

2016-2019 Elected to the American Correctional Association's National Delegate Assembly

Memberships:

American Correctional Association

American Jail Association

National Sheriff's Office

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Florida Sheriff's Association