



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

L. GALE BUCKNER, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner
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DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Juvenile Justice Board Meeting Elects Chairman Avery Niles
New DJJ Interim Commissioner by Unanimous Vote

(DJJ Central Office – ATLANTA- GA) A special meeting of the Georgia Board of Juvenile Justice was called to convene at 2:00pm on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at the DJJ Central Office located at 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, Georgia 30032.

Agenda items included Commissioner L. Gale Buckner's announcement of her retirement from state office at the Department of Juvenile Justice effective November 1st, 2012 to assume the post of Chief Magistrate Judge in Murray County, Georgia on November 1st, 2012.

There being a quorum of Board members by teleconference, Agenda items were approved and a Motion was made for nominations for an Interim Commissioner to succeed L. Gale Buckner as DJJ Commissioner upon her retirement November 1st, 2012.

Board Member Spurgeon Ambrose nominated Chairman Avery Niles as Interim Commissioner and Board Member Judge Franklin Rozier seconded the nomination, after which nominations were closed.

The Governor's Office advised the Board by teleconference of Governor Nathan Deal's support for current Board Chairman Avery Niles as Interim Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Secretary conducted a Roll Call vote and announced the results, naming Avery Niles as Interim DJJ Commissioner to succeed L. Gale Buckner upon her retirement. The vote was unanimous, with one abstention from Chairman Niles.

Chairman Niles will resign from the Board effective October 31st, 2012 and an election of a new Chair will be held during the November 15th, 2012 Board Meeting. Under Georgia Law, the Commissioner is appointed by the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor.

(END RELEASE)

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