



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

L. GALE BUCKNER, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE **OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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DJJ ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW ON-LINE CRIME INTEL TIP-LINE

(ATLANTA – GA) The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to announce that starting August 1st, the newly formed DJJ Intelligence Unit launched its web-based online TIP Line.

Commissioner L. Gale Buckner said the TIP Line is designed to be an essential security tool where state employees and the public can submit confidential information that can impact the safety and security of both detainees and staff in DJJ's Secure Facilities and Court Service Offices.

"This new online TIP Form is available to all DJJ employees *and* to the public," said Commissioner L. Gale Buckner. "Now, if they see something, they can also *say* something to help safeguard this workplace, while protecting their identity too."

Agency Intelligence Analysts hope the TIP Form will encourage the flow of critical inside information from throughout the DJJ detention system to help reduce criminal activity and unethical behavior, prevent injuries and save lives. Investigators are specifically hoping to follow-up on tips about illegal gang activity, contraband smuggling and unlawful or unethical staff policy violations.

"Tips can be about all types of relevant incidents or activities throughout the DJJ system," said Commissioner Buckner. "These tips can be submitted completely anonymously or if they want, a whistleblower can include contact information for follow-up. It's all up to them."

The innovative new system is devised so that tips submitted online will remain confidential and reviewed solely by the DJJ Intelligence Unit.

The TIP Line and the DJJ Intelligence Unit responsible for the project are the latest safety and security upgrades introduced by Commissioner Buckner at the Department of Juvenile Justice. Just a month ago, the Commissioner announced plans to restructure DJJ's Central Office organizational structure to improve the efficiency of its special public safety mission.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

(PAGE TWO)

"We launched these agency reforms with a task force making unscheduled inspections of all DJJ secure facilities and court service offices. We're still making return inspection visits and revising outdated policies," said Commissioner Buckner. "Now, with help and cooperation from a core group of dedicated DJJ Staff throughout the system, we're determined to bring about best practices and professional change in the department. The DJJ On-line TIP line is another tool we can use to help make that happen," said Buckner.

For persons with information to share about possible dangerous, illegal or unethical activities at Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, the new TIP Forms can be accessed through the DJJ website at the following links:

<http://www.djjnewsandviews.org>

<http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/gangs101>

<http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/preageorgia/>

Commissioner Buckner's core message since her November 2011 appointment by Governor Nathan Deal has emphasized the critical duty of Juvenile Corrections Officers to enforce safety and security measures at Georgia's juvenile justice facilities so youth and staff at DJJ can all be safe in a secure learning environment.

(END RELEASE)