



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Commissioner Creates New Chaplaincy Service for DJJ

Pastoral Care is Part of Recovery & Rehabilitation for Some Youth in Detention

(ATLANTA - GA) Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce he has appointed Rev. Danny A. Horne of College Park, GA. to the newly created position of Director of Chaplaincy Services for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. The Commissioner called the Chaplain's appointment another important step in Georgia juvenile justice reform at DJJ.

"Promoting stability through personal spiritual development can inspire individual progress for youth in juvenile detention settings," said Commissioner Niles. The role of the DJJ Chaplain is to promote spiritual development by providing opportunities for youth and staff to participate in faith-based programs, practice their faith and receive spiritual counseling on a voluntary basis.

Commissioner Niles cited Chaplain Danny Horne's experience as a veteran spiritual counselor within Georgia's adult correctional system. For ten years Rev. Horne has served the challenging needs of both inmates and institution staff at Washington, Rivers and Phillips State Prisons before coming to serve at DJJ. "Our new Chaplain is a clinically trained minister who will provide pastoral care to assist our youth through their recovery, rehabilitation and reentry process," the Commissioner said. "Rev. Horne is also an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Niles said he decided to establish the Department of Chaplaincy Services after recognizing the full impact a leader of the faith-based community could have managing interdenominational services for DJJ youth and staff. Rev. Horne will ensure the department gauges the spiritual needs of DJJ youth and that appropriate worship opportunities are provided for those youth.

"Access to Chaplain Services provides youth in detention with avenues for deeper recovery, successful transitions, and reduced recidivism rates," said Commissioner Niles. There are positive advantages to working with juvenile corrections staff as well. Chaplains are known to help keep juvenile corrections facilities free of religious, racial and sexual discrimination.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Chaplain programs help educate juvenile corrections staff about various faiths and sensitize them to religious cultural traditions. "This will be an important task during DJJ's ongoing restorative justice process for young offenders," the Commissioner said. "Our new chaplain can help us ensure non-discriminatory environments inside Georgia's secure facilities."

"At the Department of Juvenile Justice the Chaplaincy Director will act as our gatekeeper for the protection of religious freedoms and traditions," said Commissioner Niles. "He will help us guarantee these First Amendment rights for all our youth in detention," Commissioner Niles said.

Chaplains serving in modern correctional institution programs are expected to offer more than faith-based programs. Chaplains like Rev. Horne are also expected to be professionally certified and well versed in areas of counseling, mentoring, psychology, sociology and ethics.

Chaplain Horne is a graduate of Emory University's Candler School of Theology where he received his Masters of Divinity. He studied in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta and he has a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcasting and Film from Boston University. Rev. Horne serves as Chaplain for the Department of Juvenile Justice Board. He is married to Attorney and Educator, Carol R. Horne, and they are the parents of five children and have five grandchildren.

To help accomplish Georgia's juvenile justice youth reform and reentry mission, the new chaplain must also function both as counselor and advocate for young offenders. Through counseling, Chaplain Horne promotes positive youth development and involves families and communities. He also helps connect newly released juvenile offenders to networks of support with local churches and service agencies in their home communities to secure housing and employment.

Commissioner Niles said Chaplain Danny Horne is the latest member of a new team of critical service providers including the Office of the Ombudsman and Reentry Services which now directly respond and plan for the current and future needs of DJJ youth in custody.

For DJJ youth and Staff with questions about faith-based programs and issues, Chaplain Horne can be contacted at DannyHorne@dj.state.ga.us or 404-508-6500.

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