



A MESSAGE FROM THE  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner  
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Office of Communications



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DJJ Plans Regional Youth Facility for Terrell County  
Legislative Leaders to Highlight Groundbreaking Ceremony**

**(ATLANTA - GA)** Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the scheduled groundbreaking for DJJ's Terrell County Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) in Dawson, Georgia. Representative Gerald Greene, Senator Freddie Powell Sims and other community leaders will be on hand to mark the Department of Juvenile Justice ceremonies. The event is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8th starting at 1:30PM**. The **Terrell County RYDC** is located at **1666 Albany Highway in Dawson, Georgia**.

The groundbreaking at Terrell RYDC marks a highlight in the Southwest Region of Georgia for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Funded with bonds passed during the 2014 legislative session, the Terrell RYDC will be a fifty-six bed secure facility with room for up to forty-eight males and eight female juvenile offenders.

Converted from a former Department of Corrections facility, the Terrell RYDC will be a technological standard bearer for the Department of Juvenile Justice featuring IP Closed-Circuit Television surveillance, steel cells and touch screen control panels. A focal point of the facility will be its expanded educational wing with computer labs and state of the art Promethean interactive learning boards. The Terrell RYDC is scheduled to open in October 2016.

"The groundbreaking at the Terrell RYDC signifies the start of an exciting new era for the Department of Juvenile Justice in Southwest Georgia," said DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles. "Not only does this Youth Detention Center bring in a significant number of jobs here, the Terrell RYDC also showcases updates in security engineering and construction as a result of Georgia's new juvenile justice reforms in 2014."

"The safety measures, technology and added emphasis on treatment, counseling and education incorporated here will be hallmarks of the Terrell RYDC and will highlight our methodology to always be thinking about preparing young offenders for reentry into their communities as responsible and law abiding citizens," said Commissioner Niles.

"We appreciate support from Governor Nathan Deal and the General Assembly for providing the resources for this facility. We especially wish to note the work of Representative Gerald Greene and Senator Freddie Powell Sims for demonstrating their dedication to the youth of Georgia," the Commissioner said.

**(MORE MORE MORE)**

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Correctional staff for the Terrell RYDC will complete rigorous training before the official opening and special recruitment efforts will be launched to bring in the very best candidates. In addition to quality transfer employees from the Albany RYDC, DJJ will hire and recruit only mature, responsible adults with interests in helping young offenders through troubled transitions in their lives.

Along with scheduled appearances by Representative Greene and Senator Sims, a wide range of community and elected leaders are expected to attend the groundbreaking ceremony with local media invited to cover the proceedings. Parking will be provided and refreshments available for attendees.

For more information on Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia, please visit [www.djjnewsandviews.org/juvenilejusticereform](http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/juvenilejusticereform). To learn more about available employment opportunities with the Department of Juvenile Justice go to [www.djjccareers.org](http://www.djjccareers.org).

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