



A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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DJJ COMPLETES CLOSURE OF PAULDING RYDC OPERATIONS

(DALLAS – GA) Commissioner Avery D. Niles announced today that the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice has shut-down its daily operations at DJJ's Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) in Dallas, Georgia and has all but concluded its Final Facility Closure Plan.

"After I made the official closing announcement in October, we slowly began to reduce the juvenile population at the Paulding RYDC," said Commissioner Avery Niles. "As of December 17th, we had a population of less than fifty youth at Paulding and DJJ no longer accepted juvenile offenders at our secure facility in Dallas."

Commissioner Niles said the last youth in DJJ custody was moved from the Paulding RYDC on Thursday, December 26th. By Friday December 27th, DJJ staff was already preparing property for shipping, sorting boxes of equipment for reuse at other DJJ facilities, and beginning a room to room final maintenance check. The DJJ Paulding facility was removed from active agency status effective December 31, 2013.

"It was a smooth transition," the Commissioner said. "..And we are truly grateful to the courts and prosecutors, our law enforcement partners, and our correctional contractors for helping us achieve such an orderly relocation of our youth from the Paulding RYDC."

Juvenile offenders from Carroll, Douglas, Haralson and Paulding Counties, who were formerly designated for the Paulding RYDC, will now continue to be housed at DJJ's secure facility in Floyd County where the "Bob Richards" Regional Youth Detention Center is located in Rome.

Other juvenile offenders, who previously were sent to the Paulding RYDC from Coweta and Heard Counties, are now taken to Clayton County where the "Martha Glaze" Regional Youth Detention Center is located in Hampton.

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The youth previously assigned to the Paulding RYDC were either charged with crimes or had been adjudicated by a juvenile court and were waiting for disposition of their cases by a juvenile court judge. Juvenile offenders committed to DJJ custody are frequently held in secure detention at a Regional Youth Detention Center while waiting for placement in a special DJJ treatment program or placement in a long term Youth Development Center.

"However the closing of just this one RYDC will result in DJJ's annual savings of more than \$6 million dollars, without displacing any of the youth currently in our system," Commissioner Niles said. "Secure detention is a significant expense -- about \$90,000 dollars per year, per youth in custody," the Commissioner said.

The DJJ youth being diverted to these other Georgia RYDC locations in Rome and Hampton will receive the same levels of quality health care and have access to the same high standard educational opportunities as before. For additional information about RYDC's and secure detention facilities in the Department of Juvenile Justice, call 404-508-6500 or visit the DJJ website at <http://www.djj.state.ga.us/FacilitiesPrograms/fpRYDCAndYDC.shtml>

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