

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson, Jr.

Presented by **Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations**

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Fall 2021 Citizens Academy to give residents an insiders perspective on Delaware's correctional system

Six weekly sessions start October 6; [applications due September 12](#)

Georgetown, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that its Fall 2021 Citizens Academy will begin October 6 in Georgetown. This free program gives community members a look inside the operations and programs of Delaware’s largest law enforcement agency and provides first-hand insight into how the DOC achieves its dual mission of public safety and offender rehabilitation. Academy sessions will provide an opportunity to engage with DOC leadership, uniformed officers, treatment and program providers, and a wide range of professional staff. Statewide, more than 4,000 individuals are currently incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities and more than 10,000 individuals are currently being supervised by the DOC on probation or court-ordered pretrial supervision.

“Public engagement is a priority for the Department of Correction and for this Fall we are looking to build on our highly successful Citizens Academy which met earlier this year,” **Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson Jr. said.** “Whether you are considering a career in law enforcement, want to partner with the DOC, learn more about the various programs and educational opportunities available to offenders, or have a loved one who has been supervised by us we encourage you to apply to participate in our Citizens Academy which starts October 6.”

The DOC Citizens Academy will meet from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on six Wednesday evenings from October 6 through November 10. Sessions and tours will take place at the Sussex Community Corrections Center in Georgetown, the Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown, and a regional Probation and Parole Office in Sussex County.

The DOC is seeking a diverse group of community member participants who do not need to have any corrections or law enforcement experience. Class size is limited and interested participants must complete a short application and pass a simple background check that is attached [and posted online HERE](#). COVID-related precautions, including mask-wearing, will be observed at all times. Completed applications should be returned to Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov by September 12, 2021.

The Citizens Academy goal is to strengthen public engagement with the DOC through

information-sharing, access, and dialogue and to build a strong partnership with local residents. Academy sessions are built around informational presentations, demonstrations, class discussions and tours of a prison facility and Probation and Parole district office. Sessions will focus on a variety of topics, including organizational structure, officer and staff training, prison operations, community supervision methods, medical and behavioral health treatment, vocational training and education as well as the DOC's role in coordinating Delaware's statewide reentry initiative. Participants will gain an understanding of how DOC assesses offender needs and risks and leverages technology, training, communication, and collaboration to meet their needs, mitigate those risks, support reentry success and reduce Delaware's recidivism rate.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend and participate in Citizens Academy sessions.

For more information, and to submit an application, please contact Jason Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations at Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov or call 302-379-4048.

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