



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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Christopher Kearney named Deputy Warden of Howard R. Young Correctional Institution

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announced today that Major Christopher Kearney, Chief of Security & Inspections and Emergency Preparedness Director for DOC's Special Operations Group has been promoted to Deputy Warden of Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI), effective January 30. Kearney fills the vacancy created by the retirement of HRYCI Deputy Warden Karl Sturgill.

"Even as we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID pandemic all of our Bureau of Prisons facilities remain laser focused on our dual mission of public safety and offender rehabilitation," **Bureau of Prisons Chief Shane Troxler said.** "Congratulations to Deputy Warden Christopher Kearney for earning the opportunity to lead others and advance this important work at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution."

"For the past 16 years Deputy Warden Kearney has distinguished himself while serving in positions of increasing responsibility in every type of correctional facility," **said Deputy Bureau of Prisons Chief Paul Shavack.** "He will leverage that significant experience to maintain safety and security at HRYCI, support our Officers and staff, and help drive investments in treatment, training and programming for the inmate population."

Deputy Warden Kearney completed his Academy training and joined the DOC as a Correctional Officer in 2005 and has served assignments in the Bureau of Prisons (Baylor Women's Correctional Institution), Bureau of Community Corrections (Plummer Community Corrections Center), and the Special Operations Group. He earned promotions through the ranks, achieving Correctional Corporal in 2012, Correctional Lieutenant in 2012, Correctional Captain in 2016, and Correctional Security Superintendent (Major) in 2017. Kearney has been a member of the DOC's Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) since 2011, including as a full-time CERT member who deployed on-site during the 2017 inmate uprising at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center. Kearney has taken on additional responsibilities, including assignments as Emergency Preparedness Director, the DOC's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team

which provides trauma-informed peer support to staff and their families after being impacted by a traumatic or critical incident, and the Staffing Analysis Team. Most recently, during the COVID pandemic Kearney has additionally led DOC's efforts to secure and administer supplies of Personal Protective Equipment for use Department-wide. Kearney has participated in numerous specialized trainings, including Hostage Negotiation, Conducting Prison Audits, and Staffing Analysis and Delaware State Police Interviewing and Interrogation. He is a recipient of the prestigious FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award for successfully completing its Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Leadership Institute. Kearney is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in History from Delaware State University.

The Howard R. Young Correctional Institution is a secure Level 5 prison facility located in Wilmington that is named for the facility's first Warden when it opened in 1982. The original facility, now called the West Wing, was designed to hold 360 detainees who are awaiting trial or sentencing. In 1992 a new section, the East Wing, opened adding 480 beds for sentenced offenders. Additional construction projects have further increased the capacity and average daily inmate population today exceeds 1,100. HRYCI provides a variety of treatment and education programs, counseling, recreation, and religious services for detainees and sentenced offenders.