



# NEWS RELEASE

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

### Commissioner Terra Taylor

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Presented by Jason Miller, Office of the Commissioner, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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## DOC's Fall 2024 Citizens Academy takes you inside Delaware's correctional system

*[Applications now being accepted](#) - Six weekly evening sessions start September 24th*

**Georgetown, DE** -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) is seeking members of the community to participate in its Fall 2024 Citizens Academy which begins September 24 in Georgetown. The DOC Citizens Academy is a free program that is designed to give local residents a close-up look at the operations and programs of Delaware's largest law enforcement agency and provide an insider's view into how the DOC achieves its dual mission of public safety and rehabilitation. Participants meet with Department of Correction leaders, uniformed officers, and treatment and program providers and have opportunities to engage with individuals currently under DOC supervision. Weekly sessions feature a mix of informational presentations, demonstrations, and interactive tours of a prison, community corrections facility, and Probation and Parole office.

The Fall 2024 DOC Citizens Academy will be based in Georgetown with six weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. starting September 24 and ending October 29. Sessions and tours will take place at the Sussex Community Corrections Center, Sussex Correctional Institution, and the Regional Probation and Parole office in Georgetown.

“The DOC Citizens Academy gives local residents the opportunity to see for themselves how a prison operates, learn how Officers supervise individuals on Probation, and better understand how the Department of Correction impacts rehabilitation and public safety throughout our state.” **Commissioner Terra Taylor said.** “I encourage you to apply today and join us for the Fall 2024 Citizens Academy.”

The DOC is seeking applications from a diverse group of community participants age 18 and over. No corrections or law enforcement experience is necessary. 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](#). Completed applications should be returned to [Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov](mailto:Jason.Miller@Delaware.gov) by September 12, 2024. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning immediately until the Citizens Academy class is filled.

The DOC Citizens Academy seeks to strengthen public engagement with the DOC through access, information-sharing, and dialogue and to build partnerships with local residents. Sessions focus on a wide variety of topics, including officer and staff training, prison operations, probation supervision methods, medical care, substance abuse treatment, behavioral healthcare, vocational training and education, and the DOC's central role in Delaware's comprehensive reentry system. Participants gain a deeper understanding of how the DOC identifies - and addresses - needs and risks while individuals are under DOC supervision in order to support their reentry success and reduce Delaware's recidivism rate.

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

Statewide, more than 4,000 individuals are currently incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities and approximately 10,000 individuals are currently being supervised by the DOC on probation or court-ordered pretrial supervision. Previous DOC Citizens Academy programs have taken place in New Castle, Sussex, and Kent Counties.

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

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