



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MDOC Commissioner Appoints First Female Deputy Commissioner**

Jackson— Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Christopher Epps today announced the permanent appointment of Lora Cole as Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Community Corrections. Commissioner Cole had previously served as Interim Deputy Commissioner of the division.

“Deputy Commissioner Cole is truly an asset to the agency and I am delighted that she has accepted the challenge of leading the division that is responsible for the daily supervision of more than 20-thousand offenders who are serving their sentence in the community,” said Commissioner Christopher Epps. “Deputy Commissioner Cole’s leadership skills, professional work ethic and knowledge of corrections will enhance the agency’s mission of providing for public safety.”

Deputy Commissioner Cole began her career with the MDOC as a Correctional Officer/Correctional Counselor at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss. Over the next 28 years she served in progressively higher supervisory positions including Classification Case Manager Supervisor, MSP Unit 29 Programs Coordinator, MSP Unit 30 Correctional Superintendent of Security, Deputy Warden for Programs and Classification at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Miss., and Correctional Warden, Associate Superintendent for Central Satellite Facilities and Programs at CMCF.

“I am excited about this new challenge with the Mississippi Department of Corrections and look forward to continuing the good work we do for the citizens of Mississippi,” said Deputy Commissioner Lora Cole. “The Division of Community Corrections is comprised of more than 500 men and women who are highly trained and skilled in providing professional correctional policy in the state. We look forward to facing our daily challenges with public safety as our first priority.”

A native of Mound Bayou, Miss., Deputy Commissioner Cole is a graduate of Delta State University with a BA in Criminal Justice and a BS in Guidance and Counseling. She has served as board and advisory board member for several community organizations and has held adjunct instructor positions at Jackson State University and Hinds Community College.

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The MDOC Division of Community Corrections is responsible for protecting the public safety through the supervision of probationers and parolees in the community. In addition, the Community Corrections Division is responsible for all residents in the four state restitution centers, the inmates in the 17 state community work centers, offenders in the intensive supervision program and on earned release supervision, and offenders in the interstate compact program.

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