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NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF CORRECTION NAMES MARTHA KING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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NEW YORK – The Board of Correction recently voted unanimously to name Martha King as its Executive Director. As Executive Director, King will be charged with leading the Board’s efforts to monitor and promote compliance with Minimum Standards regulating conditions of confinement, correctional health and mental health care, as well as its other mandates.

A seasoned policy strategist, King brings 15 years of experience in both the public and non-profit sectors to the Board of Correction. As founder of her own consulting business, King has worked for numerous leading non-profit and government clients, including the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Children’s Aid Society. She also worked for the Vera Institute of Justice and the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services. Currently King serves as a senior policy analyst in the Office of the First Deputy Mayor.

“Martha is the right leader for the Board of Correction at an important time. She has an extensive background in government and criminal justice, is schooled in both policy and operations, and knows the field and the issues intimately,” said **Board of Correction Chairman Stanley Brezenoff**. “As Chair of the Board, I look forward to working alongside Martha as we strive to improve this city’s correctional facilities for officers and inmates alike.”

“I’m honored to join the Board of Correction and am eager to join BOC staff and members in strengthening critical oversight and collaboration toward improvements and reform,” said **incoming BOC Executive Director Martha King**.

“Martha brings a deep wealth of knowledge and a strong commitment to reform to her new role as Executive Director of the board,” said **First Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris**. “During her time as a non-profit consultant and policy analyst, Martha has collaborated with advocates, board members, City officials, and leaders in the field of criminal justice -- making her an invaluable asset to the Board of Correction.”

“I’m confident that with Martha leading the Board of Correction, the agency will deliver robust and effective oversight of the Department of Correction, and that the organization will be

strengthened to better prevent negligence and abuse and to promote safe and humane conditions and the very best practices,” said **Board member Judge Bryanne Hamill**.

Commissioner Ponte of the New York City Department of Correction added: “The Department and Board of Correction are both committed to safety, transparency, and excellence in policy and practice. I look forward to working collaboratively with Martha and the Board of Correction as the Department continues to pursue reform.”

“We are glad to hear that the Board of Correction has a new Executive Director. The Board is an essential agency, especially at a time when the jails are in crisis and the public is paying attention. It is crucial that the Board be fully staffed and functioning to enforce its Minimum Standards, to pass on requests for new rules both from the Department of Correction and from the public, and to observe and report on what is going on in the jails. We look forward to working with Martha King,” said **John Boston, Director of the Prisoner Rights Project at Legal Aid Society**.

“I’m delighted that Martha King will assume the role of executive director of the Board of Correction,” said **Michael Jacobson, Executive Director of the Institute for State and Local Governance at CUNY**. “I have known Martha for many years and she is a smart and committed professional who knows criminal justice and corrections operations and policy. She is an ideal choice, especially now, when the rule-making and oversight responsibilities of the Board are so important to the safe, fair and efficient operations of the city’s jail system. She will bring to the Board not only her substantive knowledge of the issues but also her ability to work with a diverse set of actors in a complex environment to achieve consensus and get things done.”

“Martha has the skills, ideas and relationships needed to help spur innovation and improve practice in this field. I am hopeful that with her leadership, the Board of Correction will grow stronger and more relevant, pushing and supporting reform,” said **Ann Jacobs, Director of the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College**.

The Board of Correction monitors conditions in the City’s jails, investigates serious incidents, evaluates the performance of the Department of Correction, reviews inmate and employee grievances, and makes recommendations in critical areas of correctional planning. The Board of Correction consists of nine members, three of whom are appointed directly by the Mayor, three by the Mayor in conjunction with the presiding justices of the first and second department, and three by the City Council. The Executive Director of the Board of Correction is appointed by the Board’s members.

About Martha King:

Martha King is a senior policy analyst on criminal justice and education policy issues in the Mayor’s Office of the City of New York. Prior to this, she managed her own consulting business supporting non-profit and government clients to build new programs, create policy change, and fundraise. Her clients included Firelight Media and Films, Phipps Community Development Corporation, the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and the Children’s Aid Society. Prior to her consulting work, Martha was the vice president of development for Single Stop USA and director of policy for the After-School Corporation. She

has also worked for the Vera Institute of Justice, the New Jersey Office of Management and Budget, and the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES). Martha has dual master's degrees (Master of Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning, MPA-URP) from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a B.A. with high honors in African-American Studies from Wesleyan University. She has completed coursework for her doctorate in sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.