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PRESS
RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

LEADER WITH NEARLY THREE DECADES EXPERIENCE APPOINTED CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT AT DOC

Queens, New York – On Friday, January 26, 2018 Commissioner Cynthia Brann officially promoted Hazel Jennings to the position of Chief of Department at a ceremony held in Queens, New York. With this promotion, Jennings becomes the highest ranking uniformed officer at the New York City Department of Correction.

Jennings joined the Department as a Recruit Correction Officer in 1989. In her 28 years at DOC, she has served as a Captain, Deputy Warden, Warden and Bureau Chief of Security.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said, “Hazel Jennings has been instrumental in leading reforms that have made our jails safer and fairer, and she is a perfect fit to be the Department of Correction’s highest ranking uniformed member. I’m confident her leadership will continue to move our jail system forward.”

And Commissioner Cynthia Brann said, “I look forward to working with Chief Jennings. I will draw upon the wisdom she has gained from decades of experience. And I will value her counsel as we work together to take our rapidly changing Department to the next level.”

Jennings demonstrated her courage and leadership in 2011 when a three-alarm fire broke out on the roof of GMDC. At the time, as an Assistant Deputy Warden, Jennings was the on-duty Tour Commander and her prompt response ensured the safety of 241 inmates as well as officers and other staff on duty at the time.

Her actions displayed true leadership and averted what could have become a disaster. In the end all inmates were safely moved and there were no injuries to staff or inmates.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOC DCPI



For her actions Jennings was awarded DOC's Meritorious Service Medal in November 2011.

In October 2015, Jennings was appointed Bureau Chief of Security. Over the past three years, she played a major role in implementing widespread adult supervision reform designed to increase safety in the jails and improve outcomes for people in custody upon release.

"I am both humbled and challenged by this honor," said Chief Jennings.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOC DCPI

"I believe we are on our way to becoming the flagship correction department in the nation and that we will set a standard for others to follow. I want to thank Commissioner Brann for her trust and all of those who have supported me along the way."

About the New York City Department of Correction

[The New York City Department of Correction \(DOC\)](#) provides for the care, custody, and control of persons accused of crimes or convicted and sentenced to one year or less of jail time. The Department manages 12 inmate facilities, nine of which are located on Rikers Island. In addition, the Department operates two hospital Prison Wards (Bellevue and Elmhurst hospitals) and court holding facilities in each borough. During Fiscal Year 2017, the Department handled over 58,000 admissions and managed an average daily inmate population of approximately 9,500 individuals. Our dedicated workforce of both uniformed and non-uniformed staff members represent the city's BOLDEST.

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