



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of the Secretary

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STATE OF MARYLAND

January 29, 2015

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The Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr.  
Chair, Senate Public Safety, Transportation, and  
Environment Subcommittee  
Room 120, James Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service (DPSCS)  
Fiscal 2016 Budget Overview Responses

Dear Chairman DeGrange:

Attached for your reference is the Department's discussion pertaining to issues in the DPSCS Fiscal 2016 Budget Overview analysis.

I hope this information is helpful to you and your Subcommittee members. Please allow me to extend my sincere thanks to you and the Subcommittee for your ongoing interest in, and continued support of, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. I welcome the opportunity to provide additional information and assistance should you have any questions with respect to this issue.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Moyer  
Secretary

cc: Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation  
& Environment  
Mr. Matthew Bennett, Staff, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Ms. Hannah Dier, Policy Analyst, DLS  
Mr. Matthew Schmid, Budget Analyst, DBM  
Deputy Secretary Patricia M. Donovan, DPSCS  
Acting Deputy Wendell M. France, DPSCS  
Assistant Secretary/Chief of Staff Rhea Harris, DPSCS  
Assistant Secretary David Bezanson, DPSCS  
Director Christopher McCully, Financial Services, DPSCS  
Director Kevin Loeb, Government, Legislative & Community Affairs,  
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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
FY 2016 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

**Cost Containment**

**Issue:** DPSCS should comment on how it plans to allocate the fiscal 2015 2% general fund reduction, including any reductions that may affect implementation of safety and security enhancements such as expansion of cell phone access systems, repair and replacement of security cameras, American Correctional Association accreditation, and increased in-service training for correctional officers.

**Response:** Similar to most State agencies the 2% general fund across-the-board reduction poses a significant budget challenge. The Department, however, is committed and will strive to meet this challenge. Through direction provided from the Department's new leadership, Secretary Moyer has asked all senior staff to review current operations and identify any areas of redundancy and efficiencies that if implemented would streamline the Department's operations and achieve savings. Since salaries comprise over \$864 million or 70 percent of the Department's budget the Department has implemented a hard-freeze on all non-custodial and non-parole and probation agent hiring. Only mission critical vacancies are being approved for hire and the Department will work to ensure that this is all done in a manner that protects the public, the Department's employees and offenders committed to the Department's care.

The Department has implemented a freeze on all non-food supplies and materials including equipment purchases. Only purchases that are related to critical health and safety issues will be approved. Lastly, the Department will delay all non-critical repair and maintenance projects, again only approving projects that are critical to health and safety issues.

Specifically, with respect to the implementation of the security enhancements mentioned in the analysis, the Department is in the process of assessing the current status of these projects and determining an appropriate course of action. Once a final determination has been rendered the Department will notify the budget committees of the final decision.

**Special Joint Commission on Public Safety and Security in State and Local Correctional Facilities**

**Issue:** At this time, DPSCS has complied with the fiscal 2015 language and DLS recommends release of the remaining \$300,000 of the restricted general funds for use by DPSCS.

**Response:** The Department concurs.