



PRESS RELEASE
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Governor Names Walt Monegan Corrections Commissioner

Alaska Correctional Officers applaud Governor Walker's appointment of Walt Monegan as the new Interim Commissioner of Corrections. Besides his extensive career in Law Enforcement, Commissioner Monegan is respected in all Law Enforcement circles as an individual of impeccable character and integrity. *"We understand that Walt Monegan is only the interim Commissioner while a national search is being conducted. I do not know him personally, nor have I had the opportunity to speak with him, but you could search the nation and not find anyone more qualified to be Commissioner of Corrections than Walt Monegan. His reputation precedes him,"* - Brad Wilson, Alaska Correctional Officers Association Business Manager.

The Alaska Correctional Officers Association is optimistic that Commissioner Monegan will make Officer, inmate, and the public's safety a top priority for this Administration. When Officer and inmate safety is compromised, every other Departmental objective, including recidivism reduction, is negatively impacted. *"Correctional Officers have said for a decade that there are serious problems within Corrections, including staffing and training, but Officers have been ignored. We cannot thank Governor Walker enough for looking into the Department of Corrections. When running for office, the Governor said he would look into Corrections, he kept his word."*

Correctional Officers walk Alaska's toughest beat and having someone that understands their world is invaluable. Alaska Correctional Officers look forward to working with Commissioner Monegan to solve the many issues facing the Department of Corrections. *"Correctional Officers walk Alaska's toughest and most dangerous beat. It is a welcome change to have an Administration looking into the problems Correctional Officers have been bringing forward for years."*

The comprehensive Administrative Review of the Department confirms many of the concerns that Correctional Officers have stated over the last 10 years. Since 2005, Legislative Audits and studies have shown that the current staffing levels and low shift minimums at the institutions are inadequate to safely protect Officers, inmates, and the public. Almost every issue in the report can be minimized or resolved with proper staffing. *"We are still reviewing the report and look forward to working with the new DOC Management on the issues within the Department."*

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