STATEMENT REGARDING COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS TRANSITION PLAN

Members of the Department of Public Safety (DOS) have been meeting with individual council members this week to discuss the challenges facing the community corrections system in Denver by cancelling contracts with Community Education Centers (GEO) and CoreCivic without a transition plan in place. There are currently 492 halfway house clients, along with approximately 283 who have been approved for placement, who are in limbo as a result of this decision. In addition, approximately 140 staff members, many of whom are Denver residents, are also being impacted.

There are land use and zoning issues that must be navigated before any new halfway houses can be built and there are a limited number of providers that possess the capacity and infrastructure to work with the halfway house population. DOS is recommending City Council vote on revised contracts as soon as August 26 while these issues are addressed by an advisory committee.

- GEO owns and operates two facilities with a total of 157 beds. The revised contract is for six months, retroactive to 7/1/2019 through the end of the year.
- CoreCivic owns and operates four facilities with a total of 360 beds. The 12-month contract would be retroactive to 7/1/2019 and run through 6/30/2020

A 13-member advisory committee will be formed to address the concerns expressed by council members in the August 5 meeting. Community Corrections Director Greg Mauro, who has 23 years of experience in the community corrections industry, will lead the committee along with a community co-chair who will be selected with input from City Council. Members of the committee will be selected based on their expertise in community corrections programming and its impacts on the local and state criminal justice systems, the service delivery model and impacts on clients, victims, families and neighborhoods.

Provided the contracts are passed by City Council, the committee will be formed by August 30 and begin to meet in September through the end of the year. The objective of the committee will be to explore options to replace services at the halfway houses owned by GEO and CoreCivic. Recommendations from the committee will be made to the Executive Director of Public Safety by 1/31/2020.

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The Department of Public Safety (DOS) unifies all the city agencies tasked with ensuring Denver is the safest and most welcoming city in the nation. Our mission is to deliver a full spectrum of high-quality, public safety services to the individuals who live, work and play in the City and County of Denver. Learn more at denvergov.org/safety or follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@DenSafetyDept).