



Committee: Directly to Council
Staff: Sara Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council
Purpose: To interview
Keywords: #HHS

AGENDA ITEM #6
June 20, 2023
INTERVIEW

SUBJECT

To interview the County Executive's nominee for the Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Benjamin Stevenson
Rich Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

On May 15, 2023, the County Executive transmitted the appointment request of Benjamin Stevenson as Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. The Council is scheduled to interview Mr. Stevenson on June 20, 2023.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Not applicable.

This report contains:

Memorandum request for appointment
Draft Resolution


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MEMORANDUM

May 15, 2023

TO: Evan Glass, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

RE: Appointment of Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

I am transmitting the appointment of Benjamin Stevenson for the position of Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. Mr. Stevenson is being appointed at a salary of \$216,000. His appointment will be effective upon confirmation by the County Council.

Enclosures

cc: Judy Rupp, Clerk of the Council, Montgomery County Council
Richard S. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Ken Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive
Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Office of the County Executive

APPOINTMENT

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED TO ME UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE CHARTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, I HEREBY APPOINT

Benjamin Stevenson

TO SERVE AS Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

THIS APPOINTMENT SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND.




MARC ELRICH
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 15, 2023
DATE

MEMORANDUM

May 15, 2023

TO: Evan Glass, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Richard S. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer 

RE: Due Diligence on Non-Merit Appointment – Benjamin Stevenson

The purpose of this memo is to confirm that in making appointments for non-merit positions, our selection process utilizes thorough reference checks, criminal history, checks for warrants and warrants, credit history and other inquiries appropriate to the position being filled.

Please be assured that due diligence was exercised in determining the suitability of Benjamin Stevenson for appointment as Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. In addition, Mr. Stevenson has filed his Financial Disclosure Statement.

cc: Judy Rupp, Clerk of the Council, Montgomery County Council
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Ken Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive
Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Office of the County Executive

Executive Summary:

Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR) professional with 27 years of service and 11+ years of executive-level management experience. Leadership skills include the ability to manage a safe, secure, and large-scale correctional program, budget administration, operational knowledge, crisis management skills, and a respect for diversity, equity, and inclusion as a part of all DOCR's business processes.

Work Experience:

Chief, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Community Corrections Division, (2020-Present)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Manage the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation's Community Corrections Division which includes the Pre-Release Center, a 24/7 accredited program that houses up to 144 individuals serving a sentence; a Pre-Trial Services program, includes a Pre-Trial Assessment Unit that assesses newly arrested inmates and provides release recommendations to the court, a Pre-Trial Supervision Unit that supervises defendants in the community while they await trial, and several diversion programs which include the Alternative Community Services (ACS) and the Intervention Program for Substance Abusers (IPSA).
- Member of the Executive Leadership team which includes: the Director Office, the Management Services Division (MSD), Medical and Behavior Health Service (MBH) and the Detention Services Division (DSD).
- Responsible for planning, development, implementation of public safety mission-related programs and services, and accreditations. Manage a workforce of managers and community partners; responsible for resource allocation, facilitating the needs of diverse programs, facilitate community advisory board meetings, developing policy, and evaluating pending legislation.
- Frequent contacts with elected and appointed officials of government, representatives of influential special interest groups, local community officials, unions, and local government managers regarding matters relevant to community public safety.
- Co-managed operations of the Medical and Behavioral Services Division from 2021-2022 which included the unit operations and 24/7 staffing of nurses.

Acting Chief, DOCR Community Services Division, (2019-2020)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Appointed Acting Division Chief for the Community Corrections Division, which includes the Pre-Trial Assessment Unit, Pre-Trial Supervision Unit, the Pre-Release Center, Alternative Community Services (ACS), and the Intervention Program for Substance Abusers (IPSA). Oversaw all 24/7 division operations and facilities, in addition to completing all duties related to the vacant Deputy Chief of Programs and Services position.
- Led and managed a large staffing compliment under difficult and evolving circumstances. Since the COVID-19 crisis began, I was responsible for quick and adaptable protocols to ensure staffing coverages and to support a safe work environment.

Deputy Chief of Programs and Services, DOCR Pre-Release Center (2016-2020)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for all community correctional programs and services at the Pre-Release Center's (PRC). Review all program transfers and determine community safety risk prior to approving transfer. Supervised a Reentry Services Manager who oversees six Case Managers, three, Work Release Coordinators, two Reentry Assessment Screeners, two Principle Administrative Aides, and six Community Corrections interns.

- Worked collaboratively with stakeholders such as Health and Human Services (HHS), Drug and Mental Health Courts, Maryland's Local Reentry Program, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Family Justice Center, Montgomery College's GED program, Montgomery County's Conflict Resolution and Mediation Center, Catholic Charities Welcome Home Mentoring program, Meditation Programs, Financial and Digital Literacy programs, and the Parenting Program.
- Director appointed Investigator for confidential personnel matters which include conducting fact-finding interviews, reviewing documentation, video surveillance, and preparing final reports with findings and recommendations.

Deputy Chief of Security and Facilities, DOCR Pre-Release Center (2011-July 2016)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Managed twenty-nine Resident Supervisors providing 24/7, 365 days a year coverage for the Pre-Release Center (PRC) and a Home Confinement program. Responsible for overall custody and security of PRC residents, staffing coverage, after-hour incidents, investigating critical security incidents, GPS monitoring, facility operations, maintenance, staff training compliance, and all accreditation audits.
- Responsible for managing accreditation preparation and training compliance with the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS), the American Correctional Association (ACA), and the Department of Justice's (DOJ) standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and the Bureau of Prison's (BOP). The Pre-Release Center has 100% compliance with accreditation since 2012. Completed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Auditor training through the Department of Justice (DOJ) and served as investigator for allegations of sexual misconduct.

Correctional Specialist III, DOCR Pre-Trial Services, Supervision and Assessment Office (2006-2011)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for the risk assessment, case management, and supervision of high-risk bond domestic violence defendants placed on community supervision. Responsible for completing risk assessments, treatment referrals, bond violations, testifying in court, monitoring GPS and curfew, and court reports. Participated in Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFT) and the State's Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit's weekly public safety meetings.

Correctional Specialist I/II, Pre-Trial Services, Intervention Program for Substance Abusers (2004-2006)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for the supervision of first-time drug offenders within the Intervention Program for Substance Abusers (IPSA) diversion program. Responsible for conducted risk/need intake interviews, case management, teaching substance abuse education classes and preparing court reports.

Correctional Specialist I and II, Pre-Release and Reentry Services, Pre-Release Center (2001-2004)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for the community accountability, and case management for residents at the Pre-Release Center (PRC). Responsible for conducting risk/need intake interviews, assessing community security concerns, crisis intervention, conducting disciplinary hearings, teaching drug education, life skill, and criminal thinking classes, and preparing court reports.

Trainer, DOCR Training Section (1999-Present)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Certified instructor with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), having taught numerous hours of tested in-service training for DOCR correctional employees.

Resident Supervisor I and II, Pre-Release and Reentry Services, Pre-Release Center (1998-2001)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for community supervision of residents housed at the Pre-Release Center. Responsible for enforcing program rules, conducting security counts, security rounds, searches, shakedowns, monitoring GPS, conducting security transports to jail, and conducting disciplinary hearings.

Correctional Officer I and II, Corporal, Montgomery County Detention Center, (1996-1998)
Montgomery County Government, Maryland

- Responsible for supervising inmates on a maximum-security and disciplinary segregation unit of incarcerated defendants. Responsible for maintained order, ensuring rule compliance, responding to emergency incidents which include physical conflicts, disturbances fires, escapes, and suicides.

Employment Outside of Montgomery County Government:

Associate Professor, University of Maryland Global Campus (2005-2022)
State of Maryland

- Served as an adjunct faculty member, having taught over 150+ credit hours of criminal justice related courses which included Correctional Administration, Correctional Reentry, Juvenile Delinquency, Drugs and Crime, Victimology, Psychology of Criminal Conduct, and Court Evaluation of Substance Abusers.

Auditor/Consultant, American Correctional Association (ACA) (2006-2022)

- Responsible for assessing state, county, federal and private correctional facilities seeking accreditation. Conducted audits throughout the U.S. seeking accreditation. Responsible for inspecting operations, services, staff training, medical services, sanitation, use of segregation, incidents of violence, inmate programs, and basic services impacting the life, safety and health of inmates and staff.

Military Experience:

United States Marine Corp Reserves, (1996-2004) Honorable Discharge.

Education:

Penn State University
Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice, 1995

University of Maryland, University College
Master's Degree in Education, 2005

University of Maryland, University College
Master's Degree in Distance Education, 2009

Publications/Presentations:

Stevenson, B. & Roblyer, M.D. (2006). Using Technology-based Strategies to Change Drug-related Attitudes and First-time Offenders. *Journal of Correctional Education*, 57(4).

Stevenson, B. & Carrio, D. (2009). Rethinking the Benefits of E-Learning Training Practices for Corrections: The Benefits of an E-Learning Training Program. American Correctional Association. *Corrections Today Magazine*.

Stevenson, B. & Legg, S. (2010). First Responders to Reentry: A Pre-trial Service Agency's Role in the Reentry Process. *Correction Today Magazine*.

Stevenson, B. (2011). Presentation at the American Correctional Association (ACA) 141st Congress of Correction, Washington, DC. Workshop: "Electronic Monitoring: Developing a Model That Best Supports Community Supervision and Offender Reentry Goals."

Professional Affiliations:

American Correctional Association (ACA). Member since 2006.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFT): Appointed Member from 2006-2018.

Maryland Criminal Justice Association (MCJA), Past President (2015-2017). Member since 2006.

- MCJA President for 2015-2017. Managed Executive Board and provided training conferences for correctional practitioners. Represented Maryland at the American Correctional Association's (ACA) Congress of Corrections.

Reimaging Public Safety Task Force: Appointed Member, 2020.

- Represented DOCR's rehabilitative programs in Subcommittee #4: *Alternative Programs to Police and Jail*. Assisted stakeholders in making equitable recommendations for reentry programs, discussed institutional racism, and explored reform opportunities to programs that disproportionately impact the communities they serve.

Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (MCAA), Member since 2020.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Commission (DVCC): Appointed Member and Council approved in 2022.

Chair: Offender Committee: January 2022.

Career Awards:**Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR), Montgomery County Government, Maryland**

- Award 2020: Director Special Recognition: COVID-19 Management Response
- Award 2018: Outstanding Performance Award: Accreditation Compliance
- Award 2012: Outstanding Performance Award: Accreditation Compliance
- Award 2013: National Association of Counties (NACO): Cell Phones for Work Release Program
- Award 2007: Division Employee of the Year; Outstanding Domestic Violence Prevention Casework, Pre-Trial Services Division

Resolution: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: County Council

Subject: County Executive's Appointment of Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Executive's appointment of Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

Benjamin Stevenson

The appointment of Mr. Stevenson is confirmed by the County Council.

This is a correct copy of Council action:

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council