

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee March 4, 2021

Bonding Subcommittee Agency Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Senator Hwang, Representative Borer, Representative Piscopo and members of the Bonding Subcommittee. My name is Sharonda Carlos, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Correction. I am pleased to come before you today to present our priorities for the Governor's recommendations for our current unallocated balances and new bond authorizations.

As you may be aware, the Department of Correction operates and maintains 283 buildings and more than 3,000 acres of land, all with a combined value of over \$700 million. Our oldest building dates from 1913 (Cheshire) and our newest 2003 (MacDougall expansion).

Our facilities run 24 hours a day 365 days a year and as a result they endure a lot of wear and tear and require our constant attention. At this time, our five-year capital plan identifies a capital need of \$147 million.

The Department currently has an unallocated bond balance of \$41 million for renovations and improvements to existing state-owned buildings. The department has scheduled infrastructure projects that will easily consume the aforementioned unallocated bond balances.

The Governor's mid-term budget proposal calls for DOC to receive new bond authorizations in Fiscal Year 23 of \$60 million. This new authorization is specifically for a large project at the Osborn Correctional Institute facility in Somers involving the facility wide replacement of windows and doors. This facility opened in 1963. The agency's current other unallocated authorizations, will be used to meet some of the agency's total capital project needs identified in our five-year capital plan. Construction projects, while vitally necessary, are inherently disruptive to operations and tie up internal resources. The proposed bond authorizations, along with our current unallocated balance will provide us with a manageable amount of maintenance and construction activity.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you today, and we would be happy to respond to your questions.