Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 20, 2023

Bonding Subcommittee Agency Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Senator Hwang, Representative Napoli, Representative Piscopo and members of the Bonding Subcommittee. My name is Sharonda Carlos, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Correction. With me today is our Director of Facilities Management and Engineering Christopher Iwanik. 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 280 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 $284 million.

The Department currently has an unallocated bond balance of $22,431,174 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 has proposed $35.0 million in Bond Authorizations in each year of the biennium for renovations and improvements to Department of Correction facilities. 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.