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Corrections Merging Prisons, Consolidating Resources

Columbia, S.C. (May 23, 2016) - The South Carolina Department of Corrections will merge Goodman Correctional Institution, a level one female institution and pre-release center, and Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution (CGGCI) a maximum security female institution, both located on the Broad River Road Complex in Columbia, S.C. Additionally, Walden Correctional Institution a level one men's facility will relocate to Goodman Correctional Institution.

"Consolidating resources allows officers and staff to more efficiently provide programs and services for returning citizens while strengthening safety and security of institutions," said Director Bryan P. Stirling.

South Carolina has seen a decline in minimum security populations due to the passing of the Omnibus Crime Bill in 2010 and successful programs and services, such as Intensive Supervision Services for the Youthful Offender population. Minimum security residents will be relocated to institutions on the same complex to ensure offenders are able to continue their work in release programs and prepare to re-enter society.

The consolidation of Goodman and CGGCI will maximize resources while improving security at female institutions. Female offenders will have greater access to services as well as work and pre-release programs. Relocating residents from Walden will strengthen officer to inmates ratios and improve operating efficiency. Importantly, the institutional staff, comprised of officers and non-uniformed employees, will relocate to local institutions to provide more resources in critical areas.

Recidivism rates have declined steadily based on a 3-year national standard. The percentage of releases who returned to SCDC in 2012 is 24.9 percent, down from 2011 at 25.7 percent and 2010 at 27.5 percent. Under Governor Haley's leadership the prison population has declined by 2-3% each year

since 2011. The current average daily inmate population is 20,550, down from 21,183 in 2015.

The consolidation of facilities is not expected to have any impact on the agency's ability to provide work or pre-release programming for inmates or the ability to maintain the department's labor crew commitments.