



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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May 15, 2020

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

SUBJECT: Prison Population Reduction Efforts

As previously announced in the April 16 [Upcoming Transfer of Individuals Back to the Community](#) message, the Washington Department of Corrections was granted authority, through [proclamation 20-50 from Governor Inslee](#), to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals in our state prisons. Using that authority, a list was developed of incarcerated individuals with non-violent and non-sex offenses during their current period of DOC jurisdiction. Those on the list within 75 days of their release date had their sentences commuted and those who were within seven (7) months of their release date became eligible for rapid reentry.

Today marks the end of this authorization and the Department achieved the established goal to transition 950 incarcerated individuals to the community. Over the past month, teams across the state have been working tirelessly to complete the task of transitioning individuals into the community. All individuals that were transitioned to the community had an approved investigated address and sponsor. By the end of today, 528 individuals will have transitioned to the community through the Rapid Reentry and an additional 422 individuals were released under the commutation.

The efforts to support a safe and orderly transition for 950 individuals cannot be understated. A few of the examples of the work completed include:

- Transportation teams, community corrections staff and facility staff worked extended hours 6-7 days per week
- Prisons teams developed and community corrections teams investigated and approved more than 600 Offender Release Plans
- Pharmacy and Health services worked many hours of overtime to assure all individuals had medications in hand at the time of transfer and applications for medical benefits were completed.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

There are several circumstances that may have prevented an individual from receiving an approved release plan and the ability to transition using the Rapid Reentry process, to include:

- Unable to identify an approved address
 - No address provided
 - One or more addresses denied
 - Non-responsive contacts to perform address evaluation

The objective of the population reduction efforts was to create an additional amount of physical distancing within the state's correctional facilities. The Department will continue to monitor the health and welfare of its correctional facilities and work diligently to continue instituting best practices throughout the system to combat COVID-19.