

MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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JOINT STATEMENT ON DOJ REPORT INTO HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL JAIL

NORFOLK, VA—The Sheriffs of the member cities of the Hampton Roads Regional Jail (HRRJ) are aware of the report from the Department of Justice (DOJ). We expect all inmates to be treated with dignity and respect and we have zero tolerance for mistreatment. We believe appropriate measures have been taken to ensure changes to both cultural and correctional practices and to comply with federal and state law.

Earlier this year, the HRRJ Board hired Col. David Hackworth to take over the administration of the HRRJ. Col. Hackworth came to us with over 31 years of correctional experience and over 20 years in leadership and management positions. Col. Hackworth has increased transparency and communication with both the board and the public and has earned our full support. Since taking over, Col. Hackworth has made great strides in improving medical and mental health care. Nearly all correctional staffing vacancies have been filled and the HRRJ has been reaccredited by the American Correctional Association. In May 2018, an assessment from the Virginia Department of Corrections found the HRRJ to be in 100 % full compliance with their standards.

We have no intentions of pulling any inmates from that facility. We collectively believe the steps being taken by the new superintendent will restore the public's trust in the jail and its leadership. We also support Col. Hackworth as he continues to work diligently with the DOJ to meet and address any and all concerns outlined in the report.

Signed,

*Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan
City of Chesapeake*

*Sheriff B.J. Roberts
City of Hampton*

*Sheriff Gabriel A. Morgan
City of Newport News*

*Sheriff Joseph P. Baron
City of Norfolk*

*Sheriff Michael A. Moore
City of Portsmouth*