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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey Department of Corrections to Consolidate Two Youth Correctional Facilities
Consolidation Plan Will Increase Efficiencies and Savings within the Department

Trenton, N.J. – Oct. 10, 2019- The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) today announced the consolidation of Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility (Wagner) in Bordentown, with the closing of its main building housing 300 offenders. Individuals currently incarcerated in the main building will be transferred to neighboring Garden State Youth Correctional Facility (Garden State), with staff reassigned across NJDOC's facilities. The consolidation, which will not result in any staff layoffs will achieve an estimated savings of approximately \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). This includes cost avoidance in certain facility repairs and improvements at Wagner and reduced employee overtime costs.

“With the decline in our prison population, and at the request of Governor Murphy, we identified an opportunity for operational efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars, without compromising public safety or impacting jobs,” said Acting Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq. “We will also maintain a variety of vocational and educational opportunities previously available at Wagner, while exposing individuals to new opportunities not previously available, as part of our commitment to promote successful reentry into society.”

Those moving to Garden State will have access to vocational opportunities including carpentry, welding, drywall installation, mechanical repair, and more. The metal shop, which trains individuals in various welding and metalwork at Wagner, will also transfer over to Garden State.

Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, which houses incarcerated individuals between 18 and 24 years of age, currently has a population of 1,200 with the capacity to serve 1,900. NJDOC will reopen temporarily closed housing units at Garden State to house the incoming population from Wagner to maintain the current person-per-cell ratio. The remaining two buildings at the Wagner site, which house approximately 300 individuals, will serve as a satellite facility for Garden State.

The consolidation process will begin immediately and is expected to be completed by the second quarter of FY20.

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