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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Secretary Gary Westcott

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Contact: Tiffany Dickerson at DOCcommunications@la.gov



Department Announces Several Key Appointments

Bobby "Jamie" Lee and Tammy Grant step into new leadership roles

Baton Rouge, LA – During a press conference held Monday, Feb. 2, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections' (DPS&C) Secretary Gary Westcott announced the appointments of Deputy Secretary Bobby "Jamie" Lee, Undersecretary Tammy Grant and Procurement Director Erah J. Harper. These career civil servants have several decades of outstanding service to the state of Louisiana.

Deputy Secretary Bobby "Jamie" Lee has a long and distinguished career spanning more than 33 years, with 30 of those years in the Department's Probation and Parole division. Lee has served in numerous capacities and was most recently the acting undersecretary. He holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a Master's Degree in Human Resources Management and Leadership Development from Louisiana State University, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. Lee also attended Command and General Staff College and several military schools for military intelligence, infantry, and anti-terrorism. He is a combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lee is also the recipient of numerous military awards and prestigious honors. He has earned many specialized instructor training credentials and certifications. Lee currently holds the rank of colonel and serves as the Louisiana National Guard Army Chief of Staff in Jackson Barracks, New Orleans.

Tammy Grant's gubernatorial appointment as the Department's undersecretary occurred in January 2026. In this highly complex position, she is responsible for a \$1 billion budget with an allocation of \$814 million for DPS&C - Correctional Services and \$205 million for local housing, reentry service, and justice reinvestment. As the undersecretary, she will oversee the operations of accounting, budget, procurement and contract management, human resources, training, technology services, administrative and facility services, and consulting services.

Grant began her state civil service career in January 1992 after attending Southeastern Louisiana University. She has proudly worked in various leadership roles, and was previously the Department's procurement director. In that capacity, Grant was instrumental in strengthening the departmental procurement processes following the 2015 consolidation. Her management skills and contributions earned her the Department's Supervisor of the Year Award in 2018. She has overseen major programs involving LaCARTE procurement cards, fleet, insurance, property, and FEMA grants. Since January 2021, Grant has served as president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (LaNIGP). She has served in other board governance roles throughout her career. In 2023, Grant became a NIGP Certified Procurement Professional and has maintained the national Certified Public Purchasing Buyer certification for nearly 30 years.

Replacing Grant as the procurement director is Erah J. Harper. She brings a wealth of experience, having previously been the procurement director at Louisiana Economic Development and most recently as the Department's procurement manager. Harper also serves as the vice-president of the Louisiana Chapter of NIGP.

"The longevity, respect and knowledge that these leaders bring to their respective roles is commendable. We're looking forward to seeing their progressive and forward-leaning approaches materialize in their areas of responsibility," said Gary Westcott, secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "I'm confident that their ongoing contributions will further strengthen the Department in achieving operational efficiencies and overall improvements."