



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

Director's Office

3723 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97302

503-945-9090

December 13, 2023

Oregonians,

My name is Mike Reese, and I am the new Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am honored and humbled to serve in this role.

I began my law enforcement career in 1989 as a deputy sheriff with Multnomah County. I transferred to the Portland Police Bureau in 1994, serving as an officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, precinct commander and ultimately chief of police. In 2016, I was sworn in as the Multnomah County Sheriff and served in that position until my term ended last year.

Community safety is, and has always been, my top priority. I believe public safety is the foundation on which thriving communities are built. As Director, I will support and advocate for DOC, because I respect the work of corrections professionals and the positive impact on the lives of the people in custody.

Employee wellness is a cornerstone of my leadership efforts. Corrections work, across all job types and settings, is stressful with potential negative impacts on mental and physical health. I believe we cannot provide our best public safety efforts and transform the lives of adults in custody if our employees lack a good work-life balance. It takes healthy employees to make a positive difference in the safety of our community.

Like most corrections agencies, DOC is facing significant issues including recruitment and hiring of new employees, the impact of behavioral health disorders in our institutions, and the lack of resources needed to successfully transition adults in custody back into our community. I'm looking forward to working with our leadership team, the Governor's Office, and agency partners to develop solutions to these challenges.

Lastly, as I visit DOC facilities and worksites, it's uplifting to see firsthand the good work happening every day in our agency. I look forward to seeing all DOC institutions and work locations in the upcoming months, as well as engaging with our communities and partners. I am truly excited to be part of this great team.

Sincerely,

Mike Reese
Acting Director