

For Immediate Release

IDOC Modifies Facility Forward Plans

Indianapolis, Indiana (July 16, 2009) – Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Edwin G. Buss announced today a change to the Facility Forward initiative, which was unveiled last week.

As outlined in the initiative, adult female offenders from the Indiana Women’s Prison will relocate to the current site of the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. Also, the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF) will relocate to the grounds of the former Indiana Women’s Prison on the east side of Indianapolis.

The Indianapolis Men’s Community Re-entry Center for work release offenders, however, will not join PREF in the move to the current Indiana Women’s Prison grounds. The re-entry center will remain in its current location until another option is chosen. Once PREF moves to Indianapolis, it will become the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF), a minimum security adult male facility that will be fenced in a neighborhood friendly way.

PREF is an extraordinary facility that focuses on preparing soon-to-be-released offenders for their re-entry to our communities. PREF is nationally known for its work to reduce the recidivism rate and improve public safety, including winning the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Intergovernmental Cooperation Award in 2008 for its work with the Town of Plainfield.

Commissioner Buss declared, “The IDOC has heard from many public officials, community organizations and concerned citizens, and we listened to their concerns and ideas. We recognize their strong commitment to the revitalization of Indianapolis’ near east side, and therefore, we have reconsidered our decision to move the men’s work release center to the Indianapolis east side.”

Commissioner Buss plans to meet privately with community leaders and organizations in the next week to provide more information on Facility Forward.

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Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison
Chief Communications Officer
Phone: (317) 232-5780
Cell: (317) 903-7045
dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov