



NEWS:

Hostage Incident Fallout Continues

FEBRUARY 10, 2017 – Repercussions continue in the wake of last week's hostage incident at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center near Smyrna that resulted in the killing of a Correctional Officer.

Governor John Carney has announced he will initiate an independent review of the incident that led to the death of Lt. Steven Floyd, a 16-year veteran.

Many of the details connected to the 19-hour ordeal remain unclear.

The independent review will be initiated after the completion of the homicide investigation currently being conducted by the Delaware State Police. A separate internal probe by the Department of Correction is also ongoing.

The independent review will be tasked with discovering the underlying causes of the incident and developing a series of actionable recommendations to prevent a similar situation from happening again.

The governor has called a press conference for Tuesday to announce who he has selected to lead the initiative.

In a related development, the Correctional Officers Association of Delaware (COAD) announced this week that two of their members were assaulted Monday at the same facility where Lt. Floyd was killed.

"On Tuesday ... inmates at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna were yelling and threatening staff members during morning showers," the release stated. "One inmate, in particular, was unruly. ... When ordered into his cell, the inmate threw his belongings into the cell and said [to the supervising officers]: 'I'm taking one of you with me.'"

The prisoner then reportedly assaulted two officers, with one suffering lacerations to his nose and forehead and bruising to one eye.

COAD President Geoff Klopp blames a lawsuit settlement agreement the Department of Correction (DOC) entered into last summer with two civil rights groups as a factor undermining prison safety.

In the release, Mr. Klopp maintains the agreement with the Community Legal Aid Society and the American Civil Liberties Union limits the ability of C-Os to keep order in the prison population, worsening a situation in which officers currently find themselves about 100 positions below minimum staffing levels.

To access the referenced settlement, [click here](#).

Meanwhile, memorial services will be held for Lt. Floyd tomorrow (Saturday, 2/11) at the Delaware State University Memorial Hall Gym, including a public visitation starting at 8:00 a.m. A private internment will follow at Barratt's Chapel near Frederica.