



# Memo

**To:** Mayor Eddie DeLoach  
**From:** Justin Kimon  
**cc:** Representative Jesse Petrea  
**Date:** January 26, 2017  
**Re:** IDs for Parolees

---

Criminal justice reform is an important topic and is rightfully a part of the City of Savannah's legislative package. It has been brought to the attention of the GMA staff that the city of Savannah has an interest in the process of identification card distribution for individuals that have recently been released from prison. Thus, research on this issue has been conducted by GMA staff.

Justin Kimon, a member of GMA's legislative staff that covers public safety issues conducted research on this issue. His research included speaking to Justice Boggs of the Georgia Supreme Court and Co-Chair of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform. During that conversation, it was discovered that the council previously addressed the issue of distributing identification cards to recent parolees.

Beginning August 2016, in partnership with the Department of Driver Services (DDS), the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Transitional Services started issuing identification cards to returning residents preceding their release from incarceration. As of December 2016, over 1,800 ID's and driver's licenses have been issued.

According to GDC Commissioner Gregory Dozier, the issuance of ID's prior to release will benefit the individuals and help to reduce recidivism. The program to provide ID's to offenders being released has been initiated in a three-phase program. Phase one will include those that have previously been issued a Secure ID from DDS and have valid facial and signature images on file. Phase 2 will include those who have not been issued a Secure ID from DDS but do have valid facial and signature images on file. Finally, phase three will include those that do not have valid facial and signature images with DDS. Phase one is 80% complete.

GMA staff will continue to monitor the Council on Criminal Justice Reform and give updated information on its progress.

# **GDC Issues over 1,800 IDs and Driver's Licenses to Returning Citizens**

Commissioner: Gregory C. Dozier  
Director of Public Affairs: Joan Heath  
Contact Name: Jeal Salter  
Contact Number: (478) 992-5248  
Contact Email: Jeal.Salter@gdc.ga.gov

STATE OF GEORGIA

## **GDC Issues over 1,800 IDs and Driver's Licenses to Returning Citizens**

### *Corrections Partners with Department of Driver's Services*

FORSYTH, Ga. – Beginning August 2016, in collaboration with the Department of Driver's Services (DDS), the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Transitional Services began administering identification cards to returning citizens prior to their release. As of December 2016, over 1,800 IDs and driver's licenses have been issued.

"Providing our returning citizens with a form of identification will greatly benefit them as they reenter society," said Commissioner Dozier. "Through this initiative, we continue to pursue our mission of reducing recidivism."

The ultimate goal of this three-phase program is to provide a form of identification to all returning citizens. Phase one will encompass those offenders who have previously been issued a Secure ID with DDS (<http://bit.ly/2jc7xNP>) and have valid facial and signature images on file. Phase one is more than 80% complete. Phase two will encompass those who have not yet been issued a Secure ID with DDS, but have valid facial and signature images on file. Finally, phase three will encompass those who do not have valid facial and signature images on file with DDS. The necessary documentation for phase three participants will be obtained through the use of a DDS propriety imaging devices.

The GDC has one of the largest prison systems in the U.S. and is responsible for supervising nearly 52,000 state prisoners. It is the largest law enforcement agency in the state with approximately 10,500 employees.

For more information on the GDC call 478-992-5248 or visit <http://www.gdc.ga.gov>

###

Date:  
January 13, 2017