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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LEADERSHIP
HOLDS MEETING WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICIALS**

Trenton, New Jersey – May 16, 2018 – New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) Acting Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq. and his executive staff held a meeting by telephone yesterday with Steven Rosenbaum, Chief of the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Michael Campion, Chief of the Civil Rights Unit at the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey, to discuss the opening of a civil investigation into the conditions of confinement at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. Also participating in the telephone meeting were representatives of the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office, which is representing NJDOC in the matter.

The independent federal investigation will explore the conditions of confinement at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, focusing on the institution’s ability to protect prisoners from sexual abuse. The investigation will determine whether there are systemic violations of the U.S. Constitution in the conditions at Edna Mahan.

“The New Jersey Department of Corrections looks forward to cooperating and collaborating closely with the Department of Justice to remedy any unlawful practices that may be found,” said Acting Commissioner Hicks. “We are trusted with the responsibility of protecting our inmate population and will implement the necessary and appropriate reforms to ensure the safety and security of the offenders in our care.”

The New Jersey Attorney General's Office will provide legal advice and guidance to NJDOC during the investigation.

“In the end, we all share the same objectives: to ensure safe, lawful and appropriate conditions of confinement at Edna Mahan, and to identify and resolve any issues that may be working against that effort,” said Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal. “My office will be at the table throughout the process, providing legal support to the Department of Corrections in order to assist them in fully cooperating with the DOJ civil investigation.”

In addition to gathering information directly from inmates, the investigation will likely involve interviewing officers and local officials, gathering information from other criminal justice stakeholders, observing officer activities, and reviewing documents and specific incidents that are relevant to the investigation.

For more information about the New Jersey Department of Corrections, please visit www.state.nj.us/corrections.

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