



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

*For Immediate Release*

**Media Contact:** Shonda Knight

**Date:** October 9, 2017

## LCSO Announces Leon County Jail Renaming Ceremony

Tomorrow will mark a new era for Corrections in Leon County. What was formerly known as the Leon County Jail will officially become the Leon County Detention Facility. "We are doing much more than just housing inmates, we are providing critical mental health services, as well as working to equip inmates with the tools necessary to successfully reenter society. Therefore, our name needs to be reflective of those practices," said Sheriff Walt McNeil.

In 2016, the Leon County Detention Facility's Mental Health Department had encounters with 30% to 40% of the facility's population on a monthly basis. Currently, 400 inmates are receiving mental health services. Of those, 304 are on Psychotropic medications. These numbers are below average, as there are typically 350-375 inmates on medication.

We have developed a plan to provide critical crisis triage and continuity of mental health treatment to inmates who need services. Through a new partnership with the Apalachee Center, the Center's mental health practitioners will evaluate and treat those inmates. Evaluations will occur both on and off premises, with regard to the level of security needed.

In addition to mental health services, the Detention Facility provides resources for veterans and juveniles. Inmates are screened for qualification of veteran services; and through our partnership with Leon County Schools, juvenile inmates are mandated to attend GED classes at the Facility, Monday through Friday. Currently, there are 38 veterans and 7 juveniles housed at the Detention Facility.

Moreover, we are committed to providing vital services to all inmates, for successful reentry into society. Last month, the Facility held the agency's first, quarterly reentry fair. Through this initiative, vendors provide inmates with information on employment possibilities, social services, and other community resources. Another program, LIFT (Leverage of Intervention for Transformation), is designed to provide vocational and case management services to inmates. The goal is to reduce recidivism and help participants live a healthy, stable and crime-free lifestyle.

Reflective of our #ALLin philosophy, we believe that these new partnerships and ongoing initiatives will provide a better outcome for individuals at the Detention Facility, resulting in a safer Leon County.

**Who:** Leon County Sheriff's Office

**What:** Leon County Detention Facility Name Unveiling

**When:** Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

**Where:** Leon County Detention Facility, 535 Appleyard Drive

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