



Thomaston City Council Upson County Board of Commissioners

106 East Lee Street - Thomaston, GA 30286

Thursday, August 09, 2019

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRISON WORK DETAIL, CORRECTIVE ACTION, REDEPLOYMENT

THOMASTON, GA - In response to the situation whereby inmates escaped from a work detail on Wednesday, July 31st, 2019, City and County officials halted the program so that parties could debrief, assess situational deficiencies, and coordinate a consolidated approach to ensure safety to the general public. City and County officials met with the Warden of the Spalding County Correctional Institution along with his staff, and as a result, requested the attached statement of corrective actions. In addition, City and County management have issued administrative direction to ensure the security of public work spaces.

After a review of the incident, the protocol utilized by the Department of Corrections to screen inmate eligibility, the new emphasis on security and continual communication, and considering the correctional institution's recommended corrective action, both governments are redeploying the work details provided to our jurisdictions by the Spalding County Correctional Institution. Work details should commence sometime the week of August 12th.

Both governments are committed to ensuring the public's safety and in providing services at the most cost effective manner possible.

A blue ink signature of Russell Thompson.

Russell Thompson
City Manager

A blue ink signature of W. Jason Tinsley.

W. Jason Tinsley
County Manager

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SPALDING COUNTY

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

CARL HUMPHREY
Warden

ANTHONY WASHINGTON
Deputy Warden
Security

BETH GRIFFIN
Deputy Warden
Care & Treatment

To: Russell Thompson, City of Thomaston Manager
Jason Tinsley, Upson County Manager
Carl H. Humphrey
From: Carl Humphrey, Warden
Spalding County Correctional Institution
Re: Corrective Actions Re Escape of July 31st, 2019

My staff and I have thoroughly reviewed the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate escape of inmates Zachery Rampley and James Owenby from their detail on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 and we will be taking the following actions:

- The Detail Officer that was in charge on this date is being re-assigned and will not be returning to any Thomaston or Upson County detail.
- The rest of the inmates (6) that were assigned to that detailed are being re-assigned to other details not in Upson County.
- We have already renewed an emphasis to all Officers to make sure materials, tools and vehicles in the areas they are working are ALWAYS properly secured. We will continue to emphasize this.
- We have re-emphasized our commitment to have regular communication between City of Thomaston, Upson County officials, Detail Supervisors and Spalding County C.I. officials in reporting, receiving and acting upon ANY security concerns of any of the aforementioned.
- Our Contract Detail Supervisor, Sgt. Andrews, will make routine contact with City of Thomaston and Upson County officials for evaluation of any security concerns.
- Spalding County Correctional Institution will provide additional annual training for all outside Detail Officers.

While we are aware that in any prison situation escapes can and do occur, we are committed to making sure that these events are prevented. Thank you all for your patience and support in making sure we can all work together successfully.