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CC: Godfrey, RobRobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/17/2016 11:58:43 AM
Subject: SCDC

Hey Chaney,

I'm working on an article about staff shortages at the department of corrections.

Right now, SCDC is operating with about 30 percent of their security staff positions vacant. Reported assaults and homicides, four this year, are rising. Additionally, low staffing leads to the ease of contraband making it into prisons – including cellphones – which allows inmates to continue running criminal enterprises, run credit card scams and, in the instance of Capt. Robert Johnson, order violence against officers and sometimes witnesses.

Many say the reason why regardless of how many officers are hired, many end up leaving the department, is because they are among the lowest paid law enforcement officers in the state, if not the lowest paid.

Officers got a \$1,500 salary increase this year and Director Stirling said he plans to ask for another increase next year. He says the increase is the first officers have seen in 15 years.

Does the governor support increasing the salary of corrections officers? If not increasing salary, what does Gov. Haley think can be done to improve retention at the Department of Corrections?

If you could get a comment to me by the end of the day, I'd appreciate it. Thanks so much!

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