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June 3rd Dedication for the J. Walter Wood Treatment Facility

MONTGOMERY, AL, May 31, 2016 – On Friday, June 3rd, the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS) will dedicate the new treatment facility for girls in honor of former Executive Director J. Walter Wood, Jr. Mr. Wood was the longest serving state juvenile corrections executive in the United States when he retired on June 30, 2014. During his tenure as Executive Director of DHS, Mr. Wood implemented a number of juvenile justice reforms and improved treatment options for young offenders. “Alabama was fortunate to have someone of Walter Wood’s experience and vision as he lead the Department of Youth Services through system reform measures brought about with the Alabama Juvenile Justice Act of 2008,” says Steve Lafreniere, Executive Director of DHS.

The facility named in Mr. Woods honor houses up to 24 young women who are committed to DHS custody. The facility’s design is intended to be more conducive to treatment and rehabilitation, which is the philosophy embraced and championed by J. Walter Wood, Jr. The facility is comprised of a 16,000 square foot dorm and 11,000-square-foot education building with offices and classrooms. The facility includes smart boards for the classrooms, a library, recreational areas, an enclosed courtyard, and a safe area for severe weather events. “This facility is a reflection of Mr. Wood’s leadership of the Department. It is innovative in both its design and functionality, and creates an environment that will allow youth to achieve positive outcomes in their lives,” says Allen Peaton, Special Assistant to the Director of DHS.

The dedication of the facility will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 3rd at the J. Walter Wood Treatment Facility located at 851 Sprott Road in Montgomery, AL. Expected speakers for the dedication include Mr. Steve Lafreniere, Executive Director of DHS, Mr. Charles Smith, Chairman of the DHS Board, Mrs. Marcia Calender, Deputy Director of Programs & Client Services for DHS, and Mr. Allen Peaton, Special Assistant to the Director of DHS. Special remarks will be given by the honoree, Mr. J. Walter Wood, Jr.

Reporters are welcome to attend the event.

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