



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 8-2008 September 10, 2008

TO: SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS

RE: Appointment of Chairman Thomas A Beilein

The State Commission of Correction is pleased to announce that Thomas A. Beilein of Niagara County was nominated as Commission Chairman by Governor Paterson, and was unanimously confirmed by the New York State Senate on August 8, 2008. Chairman Beilein holds the distinction of being the only former sheriff in the history of the Commission to serve as chair. His experience as the Niagara County Sheriff from 1994 to 2008 – which includes running a jail with an average daily population of 450 – is unique in the annals of the Commission.

Chairman Beilein comes to Albany with a wealth of law enforcement and administrative experience. He has worked as a correction officer, patrol officer, investigator and administrator.

A Vietnam War veteran and recipient of the Army Commendation Medal for Outstanding Service, Mr. Beilein served as a medic in Germany, Vietnam and at Fort Knox, Kentucky for four years before his honorable discharge in 1968. Shortly thereafter, he began what would be a 40-year career in law enforcement when he was appointed a deputy with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Beilein worked as a correction officer in the jail and as a deputy on the road patrol until he was transferred to the Niagara County Drug Task Force in 1976. He was reassigned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau in 1984, promoted to Senior Investigator in 1986 and promoted again to Chief Investigator in 1988. In 1990, he was again promoted, this time to Inspector, with responsibilities including the Criminal Bureau, the Welfare Fraud Bureau, Juvenile Aid and the Drug Task Force.

In 1993, he was elected Sheriff. As Sheriff, Mr. Beilein led a 340-member full service law enforcement agency responsible for public safety in a region of 270 square miles, emergency services, correctional services and civil law enforcement services. Sheriff Beilein was re-elected three times and held the position for 14 years.

Chairman Beilein attended Niagara County Community College. He also has comprehensive and specialized training and experience in all aspects of law enforcement including major case management, criminal investigations, drug investigations, juvenile aid, welfare fraud, victims' assistance, domestic violence, correctional management and police administration.

The Chairman is the married father of four, and grandfather of seven. He has been a member of the New York State Sheriffs' Association, National Sheriff's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, American Jail Association and American Correctional Association. In 2000, then-Sheriff Beilein was recognized as "Leader of the Year" by Leadership Niagara.

Please join the Commissioners and staff in welcoming Chairman Beilein to his new post.

**New York State Commission of Correction
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**Thomas A Beilein, Chairman
Daniel L Stewart, Commissioner
Frances T. Sullivan, Commissioner**