To: Thomas A. Turco III, Commissioner

Carol A. Mici, Deputy Commissioner

From: Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D, Executive Director

Re: Data on Mandatory Minimums for Chief Justice Gants

Date: January 5, 2017

I received a request from Chief Justice Gants office for any information on mandatory minimum sentences. If possible they were looking for data regarding:

1) county where mandatory offenders were convicted

2) racial background of mandatory offenders [*with the interest being on drug offenses*]

3) prior convictions of mandatory offenders

Attached please find a new document in response to this request containing current information readily available, including data on differences between minimum and maximum mandatory sentences as this impacts areas such as parole eligibility and restrictions effecting inmate programming, such as “earned good time.”

Statistics on mandatory minimum sentences have also been published in a number of reports produced by the DOC Research Division. In addition, Table 1 below reflects the steady decline in the overall MA DOC and Drug Offender populations as of **January 1st over the last five years** depicting jurisdiction inmate populations and subset populations therein.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MADOC January 1st | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017\*\*** |
| **Jurisdiction Population** | 11,403 | 11.034 | 10,813 | 10,014 | 9,498 |
| **Criminally Sentenced Jurisdiction Population** | 10,148 | 9,808 | 9,670 | 9,096 | 8,634 |
| **Total Drug Offenders\*** | 1,831 | 1,564 | 1,432 | 1,319 | 1,247 |
| **Mandatory Drug Offenders\*** | 1,279 | 1,062 | 982 | 924 | 868 |

\*based on governing offense

\*\*2017 data is preliminary and subject to change

Next are two figures/graphs reflecting **New Court Commitments for CY2016.** Figure 1 provides ALL New Court Commitments and those with a mandatory minimum sentence (based on each inmate’s governing sentence) broken out by race/ethnicity and then percentages. Figure 2 reflects the number of all inmates with a governing drug offense compared to those among them with a mandatory minimum sentence also broken out by race/ethnicity and then percentages. *Offenders with a self-reported ethnicity of Hispanic are counted as Hispanic in the race/ethnicity category.*

Figure 1

Graph 1

Figure 2

Graph 2

Thank you to Hollie Matthews for providing the attached document reporting January 2017 data and Nick Cannata who worked on the above two graphs showing new court commitments in 2016.