

Governor Christie Announces Departure Of Department Of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable

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Names Deputy Commissioner Charles A. Richman Acting Commissioner

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie announced today that Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III will be leaving the Administration for a position in the private sector later this month. Constable has served in the Governor's Cabinet since January 2012. As Commissioner, he also was Chairman of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA), the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) and the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH).

"Rich has served me extraordinarily well for more than a decade and I appreciate his service to this state and the country," said Governor Christie. "He has worked with me closely as a federal prosecutor, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development and as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, where he took on some of the most complex issues impacting New Jerseyans, from controlling local property taxes to Sandy recovery. I thank him for his service and his friendship and wish him well in his new endeavors."

During his tenure, Commissioner Constable was responsible for the implementation of multiple programs and services related to fire and building safety, community planning and development, and financial assistance for individuals in need. He also streamlined the \$300 million Homekeeper Program, enabling it to better assist homeowners in accessing foreclosure prevention assistance. Under his leadership, the Department also played a key role in supporting local and county governments, helping to reduce property taxes and improving local operations through best practices.

In response to the unprecedented disaster caused by Superstorm Sandy, Commissioner Constable and the DCA team have worked to create housing recovery programs to provide Sandy-displaced families with temporary and permanent housing options. He also established the DCA's Sandy Recovery Division and opened Housing Recovery Centers in each of the nine most impacted counties to ensure a quick and sustainable response. Under his direction, the DCA administered \$3.79 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds that continue to support New Jersey's efforts to rebuild homes, local governments, and businesses impacted by the storm.

"I'm extraordinarily grateful for the opportunities Governor Christie has given me to serve the public over the last 13 years. While it is the right time for me to move on, I will nevertheless miss my colleagues in the Cabinet, at the State House, and so many friends on both sides of the aisle," said Constable. "I would also like to thank all the employees at the DCA for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment to the New Jerseyans we serve every day."

Governor Christie also announced that current DCA Deputy Commissioner Charles A. Richman will become Acting Commissioner of the Department with the intention to formally nominate him to the post of Commissioner. Richman has more than 40 years of experience in New Jersey state government. Prior to joining the DCA in 1986, he held senior positions at the Board of Public Utilities, the State Energy Office and the former New Jersey Department of Energy.

Throughout his DCA career, Richman has spearheaded effective policy development in areas ranging from affordable housing, fire safety, community planning and economic revitalization to budget development. He has been responsible for regulatory reform in a variety of building and housing codes, evaluations of municipal operations; formulation of

legislative strategies; preparation of department budgets and priorities; contract management; and supervision of operating divisions.

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, he helped lead efforts in providing Sandy-displaced families with housing options and in administering federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to assist homeowners, renters and local governments in their Sandy recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Richman will assume responsibilities as Acting Commissioner following Commissioner Constable's departure on Friday, March 27th.

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