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Pretrial services chief Ray shifts to standards agency

August 22, 2009

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services announced that it has reassigned the official in charge of pretrial services, the state agency responsible for daily operations at the Baltimore City Detention Center and Central Booking and Intake Center. Howard Ray Jr., who has held the position since September 2006, will become executive director of the Commission on Correctional Standards, a regulatory agency that oversees state, local and privately operated correctional facilities. That position was previously vacant. Replacing Ray on an interim basis in charge of pretrial services will be assistant commissioner Randall Watson. Pretrial services is responsible for processing 80,000 arrestees a year as well as pretrial confinement for an average of 3,900 detainees a month in Baltimore. "Howard has been and will continue to be an important asset to our department," Secretary Gary D. Maynard said in a statement. - Justin Fenton

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