

Amy Howell, Commissioner  
Emily Gest, Director  
Office of Communications

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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**STATEMENT FROM DJJ REGARDING INCIDENT AT AUGUSTA YDC**

Last night, at approximately 9 p.m., an incident occurred at the Augusta Youth Development Campus in which a youth was seriously injured and transported to a nearby hospital. The Commissioner has requested that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation initiate a criminal investigation into the incident. That investigation is currently underway. Should there be any evidence of staff or youth misconduct or criminal activity, DJJ will take all appropriate measures, including referrals for criminal prosecution. Additional precautionary measures are being used to ensure the safety for the youth and staff.

DJJ takes seriously its responsibility to both protect the public and to operate facilities and programs that are constitutionally safe for both youth and staff. DJJ will not tolerate violations of policy and procedures by staff or youth that jeopardize safety.