From: <u>Arellano, Joey</u>

To: Press

Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State Representative Dianne Hart Responds to Article Detailing Ku Klux Klan

Presence in Florida's Prisons

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:45:45 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2021

CONTACT

Malik Moore Office of Representative Dianne Hart Malik.moore@myfloridahouse.gov

State Representative Dianne Hart Responds to Article Detailing Ku Klux Klan Presence in Florida's Prisons

TAMPA, Fla. – On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, Florida Politics in conjunction with the Associated Press reported on the foiled murder plot to be carried out on former Florida inmate Warren Williams by Klan members, some of whom were employed as correctional officers with the Florida Department of Corrections at the time. **State Representative Dianne Hart (D-Tampa)** issued the following statement:

"Unfortunately I can't say that I am surprised by this reporting. I have heard from correctional officers, inmates, and families about how deep this problem goes in the Department of Corrections. There are officers a part of gangs and white supremacy groups that have positions of leadership within prisons around the state. I have longed asked the Secretary, to no avail, to conduct an investigation into this problem because many of these individuals hide in plain sight. Due to the reported interest in this issue by the federal government, I will now be asking the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter and give recommendations to the Florida legislature."