



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homicide at Parchman Prison

JACKSON, MS (Oct 5, 2020) – The Mississippi Department of Corrections is investigating an inmate death at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Bobby Deangelo Hawthorne was found dead of stab wounds in Unit 30 Sunday afternoon. The 34-year-old Hawthorne was serving an 18-year sentence for four convictions for drug trafficking and armed robbery in Harrison County.

MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain, Deputy Commissioner Jay Mallett and Corrections Investigative Division director John Hunt traveled to Parchman and immediately investigated the scene.

“We are making every effort to reduce violence in our prisons,” said Commissioner Burl Cain. “Safety measures implemented during COVID have kept inmates inside more since March, but we continue to explore healthy and safe options for providing more inmates access to outdoor work programs. On top of that, we are installing the newest high-tech video surveillance systems inside the units to monitor activities.”

The Sunflower County Sheriff’s Office, Corrections Investigative Division, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and County Coroner are also investigating the incident. Hawthorne was serving time for convictions in 2013 for delivery of a controlled substance and a 2015 conviction for armed robbery. Sunflower County Coroner Heather Burton ruled Hawthorne’s death a homicide shortly after he was pronounced dead at the prison.

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