



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CDCR Statement in Response to Correctional Officer Andrew Johnson's Request**

**“The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation embraces the diversity of the people of California. CDCR understands its responsibility to ensure that its officers and staff treat all Californians equally and encourages cultural awareness of the many facets of our state's society.**

**CDCR did not intend to offend any segment of the population with its recent refusal to allow a correctional officer from participating in a Gay Pride Parade while wearing the department's official uniform. The decision was made solely on an interpretation of an admittedly ambiguous section of the Department Operation Manual (DOM) as it relates to unauthorized use of the CDCR uniform.**

**Upon review, CDCR acknowledges that the DOM is outdated and requires careful revision. Therefore, Correctional Officer Andrew Johnson will be allowed to wear the CDCR uniform in the upcoming Gay Pride Parade in Los Angeles on June 12, 2011. CDCR apologizes to Officer Johnson and any Californian who may have been offended by the original decision.**

**It must also be noted that while CDCR is evaluating the ambiguity of its regulations, and permitting the officer to participate in this particular event, it is not CDCR's intent to permit staff to wear the official uniform for individual off-duty events. CDCR will clarify this policy in the regulatory process.”**



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