

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.

The Ravens Played Thanks in Part To Tremendous DOC Inmate Snow-Clearing Effort

TOWSON, MD (December 21, 2009)---Maryland Stadium Authority officials today formally praised the Maryland Division of Correction (DOC) for its inmate-led snow-clearing effort, one of the largest inmate public works projects in recent memory. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the DOC personnel for their outstanding effort in support of the M & T Bank Stadium snow removal operation throughout the entire weekend," wrote the Maryland Stadium Authority's James Slusser. "Removing 18 to 22 inches of snow in a 72,000-person capacity stadium in near blizzard conditions is a very significant challenge. DOC was not required to take on this challenge, but out of DOC leadership's commitment to community support, they did not hesitate to provide maximum effort."

Nearly 200 inmates and more than 30 DOC correctional officers and staff spent Saturday and Sunday at M&T Bank Stadium removing hundreds of tons of snow. The inmates included 119 from Jessup Pre-release Unit (JPRU), 42 from Baltimore City Correctional Center, and 18 from Brockbridge Correctional Facility in Jessup. JPRU's Facility Administrator Margaret Chippendale and William Filbert, Warden of the entire DOC Pre-release System, supervised the two-day work detail on-site.

The first inmates (from JPRU) arrived at the stadium Saturday before 7 a.m.---as the storm reached its peak. They worked all day and into the night, and were relieved by an inmate crew from Baltimore City Correctional Center. On Sunday morning, those inmates in turn were relieved by a group from Brockbridge. The inmates worked on teams in two-hour shifts. Saturday's crews were fed by the Stadium Authority; on Sunday, bag lunches were provided by DOC. The Division of Correction will bill the Maryland Stadium Authority to cover the cost of both inmate and staff time.

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Under DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard's *Public Safety Works* initiative, more inmates are performing meaningful community projects in more corners of Maryland than ever before. On any given day, between 300 and 400 inmates are at work in the community---not counting hundreds more on routine roadside trash pickup details. Inmates have worked at Antietam Battlefield, planted more than 200,000 trees, built bear-proof campers' enclosures and oyster spat cages, and performed hundreds of other community-benefiting projects.

For more information on Public Safety Works, please visit our web site:
www.dpscs.state.md.us.

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