

From: [Grimes, David](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Hart issues statement on recently released video of officers assaulting a Florida Inmate
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 2:32:35 PM

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May 28th, 2021

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Representative Hart issues statement on recently released video of officers assaulting a Florida Inmate

Tampa, Fla. –On Wednesday the Miami Herald released an [article](#) about a recently released video of Florida Department of Correction officers assaulting a transferred inmate, leaving him injured and bloody. The video is from October of 2020 and officers are seen in the video repeatedly punching Michel Hernandez, leaving blood smeared on the walls of his cell.

Representative Dianne Hart (D- District 61) issued the following statement:

“It is disheartening to hear of incident after incident of inmates falling victim to abuse and mistreatment at the hands of correctional officers. It is time for real structural changes in the Florida Department of Corrections. I am calling for the removal of all officers involved in this incident and anyone else who played a role in this abuse and cover up. It is time to clean house of those who look to abuse their power and pass legislation that will create a real system of oversight and accountability within our state’s correctional institutions.

Prison reform is not glamorous work, but it is necessary. I’ve been working on these issues since 2018 upon arrival to the legislature but to no avail. Time is up for kicking the can down the road as if it’s not our problem; there are people dying because of our inaction and unwillingness to do what’s right.”

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