

Opinion: Murphy is following well-worn path on prison controversy

ARL GOLDEN | FEBRUARY 10, 2021 | [OPINION](#), [POLITICS](#)

As calls rise for given them vice presidential commission he and his team appear to be leading from a familiar and flawed playbook.

Even as more detailed accounts emerge of the abuse of inmates at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women and in the face of rising calls for resignation, suspension and criminal charge, the administration of Gov. Phil Murphy has stuck to the pattern it established early on when confronted with serious allegations of personal or ethical misbehavior by high-level appointees:

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- First, disclaim any detailed knowledge of the allegation.
- Second, issue a statement explaining the situation.

Silence from the governor's office

The governor and his staff have remained silent in the aftermath of the public release, giving no indication that the resignation of the governor will be accepted or that the commissioner will be placed on paid or unpaid leave while the investigation proceeds.

Three officers have been charged in connection with the alleged assault, including the allegation they altered records as part of a cover-up; nearly 100 others were suspended.

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