



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

K. Gail Russell, Secretary

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Martin and Sellers Embrace New Roles at ABC

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 15, 2019) – Public Protection Cabinet Secretary K. Gail Russell names Carol Beth Martin as Commissioner of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Karen Sellers as Deputy Commissioner and Distilled Spirits Administrator.

“The Commonwealth is fortunate to have such impressive women leading a department that oversees one of Kentucky’s signature industries,” said Secretary Russell. “I am grateful for Carol Beth and Karen’s commitment to service.”

Carol Beth Martin became acting Commissioner in March following the departure of Christy Trout Van Tatenhove. Martin previously served as the Malt Beverage Administrator, and maintains those duties in addition to her new position. Prior to a short stint as Executive Director of Human Resources at the Transportation Cabinet, she served for eight years as the Chief of Staff of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Martin began her career in government as the County Administrator/Human Resource Director for Grant County Fiscal Court.

Karen Sellers previously served as a healthcare executive for twenty-one years at Highlands Health System in eastern Kentucky prior to joining state government in March as Deputy Commissioner. In addition to the role of Deputy, Sellers will also serve as Distilled Spirits Administrator.

“I am excited about the future of the department and appreciate Secretary Russell’s vision in identifying the needs and goals of this agency,” said Carol Beth Martin. “Our team at ABC will work to ensure compliance with state law, while encouraging economic development in Kentucky’s growing alcohol industries.”

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As an agency of the Public Protection Cabinet, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is dedicated to protecting the welfare and interests of the public by regulating the alcoholic beverage industry through licensing, education and the enforcement of alcohol laws and regulations. ABC also regulates youth access to alcoholic beverages and tobacco products in the Commonwealth. For additional information about ABC, visit <https://abc.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>.