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**APPA Executive Director/CEO Veronica Cunningham is
Recognized by a Massachusetts Court during
Women's History Month celebration**

Veronica B. Cunningham, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) was one of seven influential women who were honored during Chelsea District Court's Second Annual Women's History Month Celebration, a virtual event staged at the Chelsea Court in Massachusetts last week. The theme of the event and national observance is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope."

Ms. Cunningham is a trained Community Corrections professional with 36 years of experience "in extensive management and leadership in progressively responsible justice system positions." She and the other six honorees were acknowledged for their work and how it represents healing and hope. The award recipients work in the criminal justice, social service, and health care fields. In addition to Ms. Cunningham, the other recipients included Dalila Argaez Wendlandt, Associate Justice; Julie Bernard, District Court Judge; Silvia Guzman, Chelsea Defense Attorney; US Justice Angel Kelley; Katie O' Leary, North Suffolk Mental Health Director of Recovery Support Services; and Dr. Treniece Lewis-Harris, Cambridge Health Alliance Psychologist.

Hingham District Court Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Brady introduced Ms. Cunningham, whom she first met several years ago at an APPA conference: "Since then she has continued to inspire me and motivate me to really embrace the work we do and the opportunity

that we have to make such a profound impact on the communities that we serve.”

Ms. Cunningham told the virtual audience: “I’m so appreciative of this honor and I am more than thrilled to be a part of a conversation with such esteemed individuals.” She also spoke about the importance of having a “bedrock” or support system and the power of the theme, “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.”

“The theme is so enticing. When I think of healing and hope, they are really simple and small words, yet so powerful,” Ms. Cunningham said. “..it is important to have hope so that we can also provide hope to others.”

The celebration was kicked off by Chelsea District Court Chief Probation Officer Carmen Gomez and Judge Matthew J. Machera. Guest speakers included Massachusetts Probation Commissioner Edward Dolan, newly-appointed Trial Court Chief Justice Jeffrey Locke, and Juvenile Court Chief Justice Amy Nechtem.