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Division of Unclaimed Funds Announces Leadership Change

Department of Commerce Director Jacqueline T. Williams today announced a leadership change in the Division of Unclaimed Funds.

Yaw Obeng, superintendent for the Division of Unclaimed Funds, will retire from his position on Dec. 31. Akil Hardy, currently the director of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance, will assume the role of superintendent.

Obeng came to Commerce from the Ohio Department of Transportation in October 1989. He began his tenure at Commerce as an accountant, and has held various positions within the Division of Unclaimed Funds. He became superintendent in April 2006.

“Under Yaw’s leadership, the division has continued to increase the number of claims processed and funds returned to claimants, reuniting more Ohioans with their forgotten money,” Williams said. “For some, receiving these funds is life-changing, allowing families to pay for unanticipated medical costs and financial hardships.”

Hardy joined Commerce in April 2016. He has served in a variety of leadership roles in the private sector for companies including Netflix, L Brands, Target and Hertz. He has significant experience in operations management, continuous improvement, logistics and supply chain management. During his tenure at Commerce, Hardy has worked on process improvement projects with multiple Divisions, including the divisions of Unclaimed Funds, Financial Institutions and Liquor Control. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Xavier University.

“Akil brings a data- and results-driven focus to this role, as well as a commitment to quality customer service,” Williams said. “His private sector experience, combined with his exposure to many areas within Commerce in his tenure with the agency, position him to continue to serve businesses and Ohioans.”

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