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**Governor Crist Announces Executive Director of
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet today unanimously voted to appoint Julie L. Jones of Tallahassee as executive director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

“Julie’s 23 years as a supervisor and manager have provided her with outstanding leadership skills and a wide variety of experience,” said Governor Crist. “Her understanding and familiarity with law enforcement will be particularly important as she focuses on ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors on Florida’s highways.”

Jones, 52, has served as the director of law enforcement for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission since 2002. As director, she is responsible for over 900 officers and employees who respond to natural disasters, dangerous wildlife escapes and other public safety emergencies, including search and rescue operations. Previously, within the same agency, she served as regional director from 1997 to 2002, law enforcement supervisor from 1986 to 1997, wildlife officer from 1983 to 1986, and biologist from 1982 to 1983. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Florida Atlantic University.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides service, education and enforcement to keep Florida’s highway system safe for residents and visitors. The department provides driver licenses and identification cards, motor vehicle registration, as well as roadside assistance to those involved in accidents or breakdowns.

“I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to continue serving the people of Florida and working to ensure the safety of our state,” said Jones. “I look forward to stepping into this new role at such an important agency.”

Jones is appointed for a term beginning September 30, 2009, and ending at the pleasure of the Governor and Cabinet. She replaces Electra Theodorides-Bustle.