

MINUTES

May 19, 1982

Board of Correction

A regular meeting of the New York City Board of Correction was held on May 19, 1982 at the office of Tufo & Zuccotti, 645 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Board members in attendance included Chairman Peter Tufo, Vice-Chairman John Horan, Angelo Giordani, David Lenefsky, David Schulte and Rose M. Singer.

Board staff in attendance included Michael Austin, Judith LaPook, David Johnson, Sherry Goldstein, Father Robert Harrison, Tom Prendergast, Rolando Torres and Barbara Treen.

Peter Tufo called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Sherry Goldstein acted as secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Peter Tufo announced that Tom Prendergast was leaving the Board and stated that Tom had made a significant contribution to the work of the Board and would be missed. Mr. Tufo also announced that the need for a health services investigator at the Board had been successfully justified and was reflected in the Mayor's Executive Budget.

Peter Tufo then discussed the screening of "In the Custody of Strangers" which he was co-hosting. He indicated that everyone had been invited to attend later that evening and thanked Mrs. Singer for her role in setting up the screening.

Mr. Tufo next reported on his meeting the previous afternoon with fourteen departmental chaplains. He explained the Department's new order which limited chaplain access. The chaplains are taking a strong position against this policy. A discussion followed on the issues involved and what the Board's position should be and staff was instructed to analyze the new order and its impact and to prepare a draft standard addressing chaplain access in case the Board wanted to consider issuing such a standard.

Judith LaPook then presented the Department's variance requests for six month extensions of their present variances which permit them to house two inmates in the jumbo cells in Building 5, AMKC and for the detainee dorms at C-95, the Queens House of Detention, C-76 and the Correctional Institution for Women. After some discussion of the options available, the requests were granted conditionally (see attached copy).

David Schulte then brought up the work release facility stating his strong contention that it was a safety and fire hazard for the inmates housed there. A considerable discussion followed with Mr. Schulte stating that he felt that dangerous conditions existed in the facility and that it should be closed until repairs are made.

Mr. Austin stated that Captain Barbara Thomas had recently been assigned to the work release facility and that he thought the most effective way to proceed was to have Board and Department staffs resolve these problems informally. He further indicated that the Fire Department had conducted an inspection in January, 1982.

Mr. Giordani agreed to inspect the facility and staff was instructed to write letters to the Departments of Housing and Fire expressing the Board's concerns and requesting current inspections.

The Mayor's press release concerning work camps was discussed. It was agreed that staff would arrange a presentation on the status of the work camp plans for the next Board meeting.

Tom Prendergast reported on Jose Rosa's suicide from an overdose of elavil. Mike Austin discussed the specific problems associated with dispensing elavil. The Chairman asked that staff make sure that this issue be considered by the Prison Death Review Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.