

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

April 29, 1975

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Tuesday, April 29, 1975 at Mr. Tufo's office, 645 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Present were Father Rios, Mrs. Singer, Mr. Tufo and Reverend Wilson. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director; Marc Rosen, Assistant Executive Director; Michael D. Cleary, Executive Secretary/Fiscal Officer; Greg Harris, Director, Clergy Volunteer Program; and Jerome Cappellani and Stephen Fisher, staff assistants.

Mr. Tufo served as Chairman and Mr. Fisher as Secretary of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Singer and seconded by Reverend Wilson, request for excused absences from Mr. Gottehrer, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Kirby were approved.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Singer and seconded by Reverend Wilson, the minutes of the meeting of April 1 and April 14 were approved.

A general discussion ensued on the need to educate the public on the conditions of the New York City prisons. It was suggested that courses in law schools be offered in corrections and penology. It was agreed generally that a letter would be prepared for the Chairman's signature to be sent to various law schools suggesting that such courses be offered.

It was stated that the CJCC grant had been approved on the City and State levels.

Mr. Brickman reported on the recent suicide of Inmate Mario Saladino at the Queens House of Detention as well as the two recent escape attempts from the New York City jails. Regarding the release of the mistaken prisoner from the Queens House of Detention, it was agreed that the staff will look into the overall method of releasing prisoners.

A general discussion followed on the procedure for notifying the Board of Correction of unusual incidents in the City jails. As a result of this discussion, a roster of staff to be on duty every weekend during the summer will be drawn up, as well as a checklist of what to do when a Board member responds to an emergency at an institution.

The matter of the court monitoring project was raised. It was stated that a meeting has been scheduled with Judge Brownstein to discuss the report. A decision will not be made until after that discussion as to the future of the report. The Chairman suggested that the staff should formulate its own recommendations.

The matter of the bill before the State legislature changing the designation of Correction Officer to Correction Police was considered. There was a general discussion regarding whether this was feasible, and the matter was held in abeyance pending receipt of the bills.

The matter of the KKK activity at Napanoch Correction Facility was raised. Mr. Brickman stated that he would write again to Albert Berkowitz, Chairman of the State Commission of Correction about the situation.

The status report on projects was discussed. Mr. Tufo stated that he would like to see newly hired law students before they start work and it was agreed that each student would be assigned to an individual member of the Board as part of their basic orientation to the Board and its work.

A discussion of the Clergy Volunteer Program followed. It was stated that the Clergy Volunteer Program would be a separate entity from the Citizen Volunteer Program.

The matter of CVP visits to the bing area at the Brooklyn House of Detention was raised. Mr. Harris informed the Board that Warden West believes that Clergy Volunteer members should not go to the bing area and should not attend inmate liaison committee meetings at the institution. It was decided that the Chairman would speak with the Commissioner about the problem.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Jerome Becker regarding the Metropolitan Council of Religious Leaders and the Chaplaincy Task Force recommendations. The Chairman declared that he would speak with Mr. Becker before deciding whether to attend the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Reverend Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Singer, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.