

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

February 18, 1975

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on February 18, 1975 at Mr. Tufo's office, 645 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Present were Mr. Lehman, Father Rios, Mr. Schulte, 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; and Stephen Fisher, Staff Assistant.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Singer and seconded by Reverend Wilson, request for excused absences from Messrs. Jackson and Kirby were approved. It was noted that no request for excused absence had been received from Mr. Gottehrer, and it was agreed generally that the Chairman would inquire into Mr. Gottehrer's status.

The minutes of the meeting of February 3 were discussed. After discussion, upon motion duly made by Mr. Tufo and seconded by Mrs. Singer, the minutes were approved as amended.

The Chairman reported on his meeting with Harold Brown, President of the Correction Officers Benevolent Association and Frank Prial, Counsel to the COBA, concerning the publication of an article on correction officers in New York Affairs by Sylvia Kronstadt, a former member of the Board staff. A discussion ensued about the article, and it was agreed generally that the COBA representatives would be invited to a future meeting of the Board. It was also suggested that the Board seek a listing of awards to correction personnel, so that the Board might commend them; Mr. Brickman agreed to ask Commissioner Malcolm to renew the procedure.

The status of the 1974 Annual Report was raised. Mr. Brickman informed the Board that it was currently being drafted and that he expected it to be completed in final form by the end of March.

The status report on staff projects was distributed, and a general discussion ensued.

It was agreed that the Board would write to John Zuccotti, Chairman of the City Planning Commission, inquiring on the status of the future of the Tombs.

The staff reported on the deaths of Stoney Evans, Larry Garvin, Paul Grimsley, and Joseph Mitchell in the City prisons in the past two months. Regarding the Grimsley death, it was the consensus of the Board that a full report be prepared on the circumstances surrounding the death, and that there was no justifiable excuse for waiting an hour for an ambulance to come from another institution on Rikers Island. It was suggested that residents of half-way houses be used as drivers of ambulances.

It was noted that Dr. Lloyd Novick, the newly appointed Executive Medical Director of Prison Health Services, would be present at the next meeting. It was agreed that a briefing memorandum on prison health topics would be distributed to the Board.

The Chairman designated Mr. Tufo to be the Board liaison with the staff regarding investigations, and Mrs. Singer as the liaison for prison health matters.

The Court Pen Interview Task Force's progress in obtaining court pen interview space in the pens, was raised. It was noted that a recent meeting in the Board office disclosed the fact that no agency involved has the money to install these interview spaces, and that Legal Aid would probably bring a lawsuit against the City. It was the consensus of the Board that City Hall should be apprised of this situation, so that they possibly might be able to avoid a law suit. It was agreed that Mr. Brickman would speak with the Assistant in Deputy Mayor Friedman's office.

It was reported that several staff people were working on the population figures for the past year, and that the staff is drafting a letter to the Mayor for the Chairman's signature, noting the recent increase in the detention population and the decrease in staff, and informing him of the troubles that might arise. A general discussion ensued of the Valvano v. Malcolm case. Mr. Brickman declared that several people were working on research on the matter, and that the resulting report could be made available to the Court of Appeals. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tufo and seconded by Reverend Wilson, it was

RESOLVED THAT the staff is authorized to continue working on a report on the problems of overcrowding and double celling, in lieu of the previously-authorized brief amicus curiae for the United States Court of Appeals.

A discussion ensued on the matter of staff access to institutions and Board access to documents. It was agreed generally that the staff would draft position papers reflecting the Board's attitudes concerning staff access to the institutions and Board access to documents.

It was agreed that the staff would secure copies of the Mayor's bills regarding the criminal justice system; they will be distributed along with Senator Dunne's bill regarding employment restrictions on ex-offenders.

Mrs. Singer reported on the case of Teddy Feldman, a woman held in civil contempt at the New York City Correctional Institution for Women. After discussion, the staff agreed to examine the legal underpinnings of the matter.

The Board agreed that the next meeting would be held on March 3, 1975 at 12 noon.

At 5:06 p.m., upon motion duly made by Mrs. Singer and seconded by Reverend Wilson, the meeting was adjourned.