

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION
JULY 18, 1977

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Monday, July 18, 1977, in the Twentieth Floor Conference Room at 645 Madison Avenue, New York, New York. Present were Peter Tufo, Peggy Davis, Angelo Giordani, John Horan, Wilbert Kirby, David Schulte, and Rose Singer. Also present, by invitation of the Board were Marc Rosen, Executive Director; and Michael D. Cleary, Dan Pochoda, Margarita Torres, Judy Ennet, Joseph Little, Thomas Teicher, Carlos Torres, Nicolas Velez, and Joseph V. Smith of the staff.

Mr. Tufo served as Chairman and Mr. Smith as Secretary to the meeting. At 3:00 p.m. Vice-Chairwoman Davis called the meeting to order.

Upon motion duly made by Rose Singer and seconded by David Schulte, the requests for excused absences from Reverend Holder and Marjorie Kogan were approved.

Vice-Chairwoman Davis directed the staff to report on their assignments to various correction facilities during the blackout precipitated criminal justice crisis. Michael D. Cleary reported that his primary responsibility had been at the Manhattan Court Detention Pens and at the Tombs. He also reported on the Brooklyn Court Pens and the Brooklyn House of Detention which he had visited on Saturday, July 16, 1977. He reported that the pens had been seriously overcrowded, that limited diets had been provided to detainees, that medical service was available, and that telephones and some social service had been provided.

Thomas Teicher reported on the Brooklyn situation. The Brooklyn HDM was making some transfers to accommodate incoming detainees and the institution was stable. The court pens were overcrowded, dirty, and unhealthy. There was poor interagency cooperation which resulted in arraignment delays.

Nicolas Velez and Joseph Little reported on the Bronx. They reported success in expediting a limited number of arraignments by coordinating the activities of other criminal justice agencies. Conditions in the recently opened, air-conditioned facility were described as overcrowded, unsanitary, lacking medical service and plagued by arraignment delays which were caused by a lack of coordination.

Chairman Tufo reported an overview of the system from the evening of the Blackout, July 13, 1977, to the present. He reported that he had responded to Rikers Island immediately upon learning of the Blackout and that he had found the situation there to be normal with alternate generators having responded to the emergency demand and other institutions continuing to receive power from the Rikers Island Powerhouse. He was informed of trouble at the Bronx HDM which was not equipped with emergency generators. ADW Jenkins of Headquarters was assembling an emergency response task force which was to proceed to the Bronx HDM accompanied by Chairman Tufo and Commissioner Malcolm. Chairman Tufo reported on the disturbance and fires in the dormitory section and on his participation in the bloodless restoration of order. He characterized both the leadership of ADW Jenkins and the restraint by the response team as highly professional.

Chairman Tufo described the court detention pens as the area of greatest problems during the crisis. He declared that neither due process nor basic treatment had been provided. He stated that the Department of Correction responds better to emergencies than it does to normal demands. Chairman Tufo characterized the staff response as excellent.

The Chairman informed the Board that he had just received information that there had been a death in the police area of the Brooklyn court detention pens. He directed the staff to conduct an immediate inquiry.

Judy Ennet reported on the impact of detainees upon the New York City House of Detention for Men. She stated that the institution was able to provide basic services to the group and that additional medical personnel had been provided by Montefiore.

At 4:15 p.m. the Board entered an executive session which lasted until 5:00 p.m. *

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Monday, August 1, 1977, at 1:30 p.m.

At 5:05 p.m. upon motion duly made by Rose Singer and seconded by Angelo Giordani, the meeting was adjourned.

* The Board decided to hire Deirdre Coulson and Carlos Torres during the Executive Session.

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