

MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 1979 MEETING

BOARD OF CORRECTION

A regular meeting of the New York City Board of Correction was held on December 11, 1979, in the 14th floor Conference Room at 100 Centre St., New York, New York. |

In attendance were Chairman Peter Tufo, Vice-Chairman John Horan, Mr. Angelo Giordani, Mr. David Lenefsky, Mr. Jack Poses and Mrs. Rose M. Singer.

An excused absence for Mr. David Schulte requested by Mrs. Singer was approved.

Board staff present were Michael Austin, Michael Cleary, Sherry Goldstein, Fr. Robert Harrison, Judith LaPook and Joseph Smith.

Peter Tufo chaired the meeting and Sherry Goldstein served as secretary.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:40 P.M., and the Board immediately went into Executive Session until 3:00 P.M..

Representatives of the Department and the Tombs Coordinating Group joined the meeting at 3:00 to discuss plans for the renovated Tombs. Present were Deputy Commissioner Ellen Schall, Ken Schoen, Skip Hommel, Herbert Tessler, Sandra Michaels, Barbara Dunkel, Andrew Barclay, William Bellsey and Paul Silver.

After Deputy Commissioner Schall introduced the group, she explained to the Board that programmatic and operational issues are still open to discussion, but it is important that the actual construction of the renovated Tombs go ahead on schedule.

A model of the renovation was presented. It was explained that the institution would be broken into mini centers with a total capacity for 431 prisoners in cells and 5 prisoners in the infirmary. The building is anticipated to be operational in early 1981 at a total cost of \$26 million.

Questions were asked and answered regarding mobility within the institution, kitchen facilities, security, lighting, cell configuration, fire precautions, staffing, mental health services, showers, flood control, recreation, ventilation, heating, furniture, rodent control, the ability to utilize the units for women and adolescents.

The Board approved the Department's request that \$100 be contributed from the Prisoners' Fund to purchase tube socks for the adolescents as holiday gifts.

The minutes of the November 20, 1979 meeting were adopted unanimously.

Michael Austin reported that JODC is scheduled to be phased out by December 20, 1979 with the remaining juvenile offenders being transferred to Spofford. He also reported that a correction officer hunger strike has started at CIFM based on the claim that the menu is inadequate and the manner in which the food is served is unhygienic.

Joe Smith noted that correction officers were permitted to bring in their own food.

Father Harrison reported that the scheduling conflict between recreation and religious services in 1B has been resolved and the prisoners are getting two contact visits per week.

With respect to developments on the proposed Rikers Island transfer, Judith LaPook reported that present plans call for adolescents housed at ARDC to be transferred to AMKC (using both C-71 and C-95) for the transition period. The dormitory space of C-95 will be used for new admissions and short-term stays. Perimeter fencing for security will have to be constructed. She further stated that our concerns about this situation are that adequate space for education, contact visits, recreation and a package room be provided.

Ms. LaPook stated that the questions of whether dorms or cells should be used for M.O. units is being considered by the Mental Health Services Task Force. She also reported that she had reported to the Tombs Coordination Group that the Board would need additional information before it could comment on the adequacy of recreation space in the Tombs.

It was reported that a meeting between the Minimum Standards Unit and Deputy Commissioner Schall and the Conditions of Confinement Unit was being scheduled to discuss compliance issues.

Mrs. Singer asked if staff was able to compare the unusuals for November with past months to see if there was an actual increase in the number of incidents.

Mr. Tufo replied that we are not able to tell if there is an actual increase in incidents or if the increase is due to better reporting. Joe Smith stated that with the assignment of new officers especially at QHD, there are always more confrontations, with a resulting increase in the incidence of assaults. He also noted that an overcrowded HDM further contributed to a higher number of incidents.

The Board then considered the draft sections of the Annual Report and approved them subject to editorial changes. In addition, Michael Austin indicated that staff will have reworked and finalized the Annual Report before the end of the year.

After brief discussion, staff indicated that a draft of the Rikers Island report would be circulated by the next Board meeting.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for January 8, 1980 at 2:30 P.M..

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M..