

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

SEPTEMBER 25, 1972

A special meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Monday, September 25, 1972 in the 25th floor conference room, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York. Present at the meeting were Messrs. vanden Heuvel, Dribben, Becker, DeMonte, Kirby, Schulte and Mrs. Singer. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director of the Board, Peter A. Lesser, Executive Secretary of the Board; Kenneth Nochimson, Legal Advocate of the Board; and Debby Powers, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 P.M. Mr. vanden Heuvel, acted as Chairman and Mr. Lesser as Secretary of the meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 1972, were approved.

It was noted that the Board had a request for an excused absence from Mr. Carrion. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was excused. No such request was received from Reverend Wilson.

The Chairman distributed draft copies of a letter to Justices Rabin and Stevens concerning the overcrowding in the City's prisons. After discussion of the letter and with changes noted, the Board agreed to send the letter.

The Chairman then distributed copies of a cover letter to be sent with copies of the Annual Report, to be sent to concerned citizens to solicit volunteer assistance. After discussion, it was agreed that another draft of the letter would be prepared and re-submitted to the Board at its next meeting.

The Chairman then introduced the ombudsman proposal. A general discussion ensued, and it was finally agreed that the Executive Secretary would prepare a memorandum for the November meeting. The memorandum will analyze the present organization chart of the Department of Correction, discussing the present structure of the Department of Correction from the level of Chief of Operations up. This will include the offices of Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner. It would be the purpose of this proposal to create suggestions for the Board of Correction as to what might be needed in the administration of the Department. One question will remain paramount in the study: Does the Department of Correction need a "watchdog" assistant commissioner?

The Chairman then discussed a memorandum addressed to Commissioner Malcolm from a correction officer raising the question of a study of the effect of a correction officers' duties on his home atmosphere as well as work. A general discussion followed regarding a correction officer study, and the Board felt that it supported such a study.

It was noted for the record that former Chief Judge Charles Desmond has interpreted the law to hold that the Board has subpoena power.

Ms. Powers announced that there would be a pilot meeting on September 28, between Deputy Commissioner Elwin of the State Department of Correctional Services, community representatives from New York City, and prisoners at the Greenhaven State facility to discuss the problems of prison life and return to the community. Ms. Powers declared that she would bring back a report from this meeting. Mr. Kirby volunteered to attend the meeting, and agreed to bring back a report.

Mrs. Singer then reported on the English prison system, and her investigations during her recent trip to Europe.

The Board agreed that there are not enough special meetings, without outside guests and that there should be more held in the future.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.