

## MINUTES

September 8, 1982

### Board of Correction

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on September 8, 1982 at the Board's office at 51 Chambers Street.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Tufo at 2:45 P.M.

Board members in attendance in addition to Mr. Tufo were Vice-Chairman John Horan, Angelo Giordani, Wilbert Kirby, David Lenefsky, Barbara Margolis and Rose M. Singer.

Board staff in attendance included Michael Austin, Judith LaPook, David Johnson, Alison Estess, Fr. Robert Harrison, Bill Keane, Rolando Torres, Barbara Treen and Melba Wiggs.

Alison Estess served as secretary for the meeting.

On Rose Singer's motion, the minutes of the June 15, 1982 meeting were approved. Chairman Tufo introduced and welcomed new Board Member, Barbara Margolis. He also introduced new staff, Alison Estess, Bill Keane and Melba Wiggs.

Peter Tufo reviewed the events of the summer which were most pertinent to the Board including steps that he had taken to gain access to the Department of Correction's strike plan and his testimony before the City Planning Commission in support of the planned White Street Jail.

The Chairman reported that COBA was extremely pleased with the Board's support of the legislation which now makes City correction officers eligible for their pension after twenty-five years of service.

Representatives of the Legal Aid Society's Prisoners' Rights Project (Ellen Levine, Norma D'Apolito, Dori Lewis and Jack Beck), the Department of Correction (Deputy Commissioner Sharon Keilin, Barbara Radin and Captain Eric Taylor) and the Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator (Deputy Coordinator Richard Condon) were present.

The variance requests and conditions at the Work Camps were then discussed. Representatives of the Legal Aid Society expressed concerns about emergency and non-emergency medical care on Hart Island.

Commissioner Keilin responded that the Department had carefully formulated the plan for an emergency medical response on Hart Island. She proceeded to describe this plan in greater detail. She added that first aid training was provided by Montefiore to all correction officers and captains on Hart Island.

There was further discussion on the nature of the Department's proposed emergency responses and the vehicles (both land and water) that would be involved.

Chairman Tufo then asked if the costs of obtaining trained medical staff for Hart Island had been explored. Barbara Radin responded that Prison Health Services had indicated that they could not afford to place medical staff on Hart Island that could perhaps be better utilized elsewhere.

Mr. Kirby asked what medical equipment is available on Hart Island for emergency care. Mr. Austin mentioned that there are ambulances on Hart Island.

Mr. Condon expressed the Mayor's interest in and support of the Work Camp program.

Mr. Lenefsky asked if an inmate could go back to Rikers Island for sick call. Captain Taylor responded that inmates would be transported back to Rikers Island as needed. Mr. Kirby pointed out that inmates opting for sick call could lose access to Hart Island for the duration of their sentence.

Mrs. Margolis asked how many inmates had been found eligible for Work Camp assignments. Sharon Keilin answered that of the 177 inmates screened 161 had been disqualified by the Department for failing to meet established criteria.

Mr. Tufo complimented representatives of the Legal Aid Society Prisoners' Rights Project and the Department of Correction for their presentations.

Discussion followed on the Department's variance requests concerning the Rikers Island Hospital on which the representatives from the Legal Aid Society were also heard. At this point, representatives of the Department and the Legal Aid Society left the meeting.

Chairman Tufo then discussed the 29 year age ceiling on correction officer recruits. There was general agreement that this age restriction was unnecessarily arbitrary; particularly in view of the difficulty that the Department has had in recruiting as well as the passage of legislation making correction officers eligible for a pension after twenty-five years. Staff was authorized to draft a letter expressing the Board's view.

The Board then considered the Department's variance requests concerning the installation of lockers.

The Board unanimously approved the attached variance determinations regarding the work camps, the Rikers Island Infirmary and the installation of lockers.

A tentative date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for October 20, 1982.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.