

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

May 20, 1975

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Tuesday, May 20, 1975 at the Queens House of Detention for Men, 126-02 82nd Street, Kew Gardens, New York.

Present were Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kirby, Father Rios, Mr. Schulte, Mrs. Singer, Mr. Tufo and Reverend Wilson. Also present by invitation of the Board were Marc Rosen, Acting Executive Director; Greg Harris, Director, Clergy Volunteer Program; Michael D. Cleary, Executive Secretary/Fiscal Officer; Jerome Cappellani, Stephen Fisher and Charles Hamiel, Staff Assistants, and Kathi Roisen, student intern.

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

After a tour of the institution, the meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m.

Deputy Warden Alfred Trufelli informed the Board that Warden LaTorre was not in the institution and, therefore, would be unable to attend the meeting. The Board expressed its disappointment with the situation since Warden LaTorre had been given sufficient prior notification. It was agreed that he would be invited to attend the next meeting.

The Chairman and Mr. Rosen reported that the Department must fire 30 civilians and that Commissioner Malcolm wanted one of these people to come from the Board staff. The Chairman stated that Mr. Cappellani's name had been submitted for termination with the understanding that he would move onto a federal grant line on July 1, 1975.

At 3:30 p.m. Messrs. Hamiel and Harris entered the meeting.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Harris explained briefly the differences between the Clergy Volunteer Program and the new Citizen Volunteer Program.

At 3:35 p.m. Messrs. Cleary and Kirby entered the meeting.

Mr. Hamiel reported on several incidents at the New York City House of Detention for Men concerning both the punitive segregation block and a general housing block. It was noted that the census had been rising steadily over the past few weeks, and it was the opinion of some members of the Department of Correction that a riot could develop. The Chairman declared that he and several staff would meet with Warden Rubin on Thursday to discuss the institution's problems.

The status report on projects was discussed.

Regarding the Juanita Robinson report, the Chairman expressed his desire to release it publicly on June 2, one year after she died.

The Charter Revision recommendations as they relate to the Board of Correction were discussed. It was noted that the changes would provide the Board with subpoena power, independent staffing, the right to fill vacancies after 90 days, the power to hire an Executive Director, and act as a liaison with the courts. The Chairman declared that he would testify at the Charter Revision hearings if he was asked to do so.

At 4:00 p.m. the staff was excused from the meeting and the Board met in executive session.