

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

May 12, 1972

A special meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Friday, May 12, 1972, in the 14th floor conference room, 100 Centre Street, New York, New York. Present at the meeting were Messrs. vanden Heuvel, Dribben, DeMonte, Kirby, Becker, and Schulte. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director of the Board; Arden Culver, Executive Secretary of the Board; Sally Howlett, Administrative Assistant, Board of Correction; Joseph D'Elia, Director of Operations, Department of Correction; John Bucholz, Director, Building and Maintenance, Department of Correction; and Norman Palmer, Director of the College Adapter Program, City University of New York. Mr. Dribben acted as Chairman in the absence of Mr. vanden Heuvel and Miss Culver acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Bucholz stated that the total Capital Construction Budget request for 1972/73 was \$40,428,896. He stated that additional monies would be needed, giving as top priority items on the budget:

- C79 Tombs Annex, \$57,300,000
- C95 Supplementary Housing, Rikers Island, \$23,000,000
- C84 Power Plant Addition (new boilers, new lights for the Adolescent Remand Shelter), \$5,800,000
- C85 Replacement of security windows at the Adolescent Remand Shelter, \$800,000
- C75 On-going modernization of all institutions, \$2,000,000
- Auto service and repair shop on Rikers Island, \$1,500,000 (60,000 square feet)
- Remaining money on the Adolescent Remand Shelter
- Four emergency generators in all of the boroughs
- Professional services \$425,000; consultants and engineers; total cost \$895,000
- Modernization of locking devices in Manhattan; discussion as to giving to the Department of Public Works; Mr. Bucholz he believed it was better to go outside
- Modernization of locking devices in the infirmary and cell blocks at Rikers Island
- Modernization of locking devices at the Bronx House of Detention.

Mr. Bucholz said that the \$23,000,000 needed for the C95 project for supplementary housing at Rikers would be used as follows: an additional 248 rooms would be built onto the Old Reformatory (C71); a separate, autonomous institution with a 670 bed capacity would be built, dormitory style; and a mini-school would be added on to C76 and the athletic fields.

Mr. D'Elia enters the meeting.

Mr. Schulte stated that he would like the Department to be aware that the State would take over reformatory cases after January 1, 1974. He further stated that he questioned the need for a reformatory on Rikers Island.

A general discussion followed as to whether it would be better to build an Annex onto the Manhattan House of Detention or build the dormitory facility at Rikers Island. Members of the Department of Correction informed the Board that Commissioner Malcolm felt the Tombs Annex should not be built.

Mr. Brickman raised the question as to how the Department could say to the public that it did not wish to add additional housing at the Manhattan House of Detention while at the same time expressing a wish for the building of additional housing at Rikers Island.

A discussion followed as to the status of the old Women's House facility in Greenwich Village. The Board was informed that \$6,000,000 would be needed to put the building back into operation and that instead the land would be sold by the Department of Real Estate.

Mr. DeMonte stated that due to the economic status of the City of New York, he wondered why the money coming from the sale of the Women's House might not come back to the Department of Correction. He further stated that this money could be turned back to the Department for operating expenses. He requested that a formal motion be made.

Mr. Dribben made the motion that the money from the sale of land of the Greenwich Village Women's House be returned to the Department of Correction Capital Construction Budget. Mr. Schulte seconded the motion.

Mr. Schulte asked if anyone had yet seen the Daughter's of Israel Home.

Mr. Bucholz said that it would take another \$10,000,000 to put the facility into use as a detention center.

Mr. Bucholz stated that the Capital Construction Budget was now up before the Board of Estimate and with the City Council.

Mr. Dribben said that the Board should now take steps to become involved in supporting and planning for the future.

Mr. Schulte mentioned that he had recently been asked to spend an evening on the bench at the courthouse at 161st Street and First Avenue. He stated that the situation he found there was deplorable, that the toilets especially were filthy, and that he had had trouble "not vomiting."

Mr. D'Elia stated that he had visited the courthouse at 161st Street a year ago and had felt the same feeling of revulsion. He explained the difficulty of transporting the prisoner who might be detailed to clean up the facility as being in need of help from the Department of Public Works. The Bronx House of Detention was not adjacent to that courthouse and the van that would be needed to transport the prisoner would be the responsibility of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Schulte made a motion that we pressure the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Dribben suggested that we get the name of the person to be contacted at Public Works and forward it to Commissioner Mavis.

Mr. vanden Heuvel entered the meeting at 1:30 p.m. He explained that he had been detained by the Queens Grand Jury.

Mr. Schulte stated that we should ask the Department of Public Works, under the Chairman's signature, to take care of the matter.

The Chairman stated that the projected budget request was based on the way the system was presently operating and warned of the uncertainty of projecting from today to 1975. The Chairman stated that you cannot plan for future building with the information presently available. He suggested that the money would be better spent in keeping people out of prison.

Mr. Kirby stated that there were currently problems that no one was dealing with: the problem of overcrowding and the problem of recitivism. He stated that we have never corrected anyone in the institutions and that we must begin to deal with rehabilitation.

The Chairman stated that he was opposed to building additional facilities on Rikers Island. He stated that he would like to see community based facilities instead, not maximum security facilities.

As an example, the Chairman suggested a number of possible uses for the Daughter's of Israel Home. He stated that it could be used as a halfway house, an addiction center, or for a work release program.

Mr. E'Elia brought up the problem of transporting prisoners to Court.

The Chairman stated that the Court should be moved to the prison. He stated that we should stop moving people around that that we should have a courtroom on Rikers Island. He further stated that we must stand up and say we don't want new prisons until there is more help for the prisoners.

Mr. Schulte mentioned that there were currently 1300 people awaiting sentence. A discussion followed as to the appropriateness of spending additional monies for construction of new facilities on Rikers Islands when there were additional problems to confront and less expensive alternatives than building additional facilities on Rikers Island.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Arden Culver  
Executive Secretary  
Board of Correction.