

HIGHLIGHTS - COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006, HELD AT THE COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS
FACILITY – DIV.5

PRESENT: Chair Iola McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Member Howard Brookins Sr., Assistant Executive Director Scott Kurtovich, Undersheriff Zelda Whittler, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

The meeting came to order at 12:30 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proxy Issue Raised:

At the May 12th Board meeting, Mr. Marchman had stated that he had given his proxy to Munir Muhammad for all meetings at which he was absent, and that should also count toward satisfying the quorum requirements. (LWV Observer Michelle Jordan questioned the propriety of such an arrangement in her report. LWV Observer Frances Sowa, raised the issue with Chair McGowan before the May 26th meeting.)

On May 26th, Board Member Brookins formally moved that the Board request an official ruling from Mr. Consolo, Advisor to the Board, on the legality of Marchman's proxy. The motion was seconded and approved.

Directors' Report:

As of 8 A.M., May 26th, there were 8,913 detainees. An additional 1,992 defendants were on community supervision and intervention. 22 inmates were in various hospitals. 385 inmates had been transferred to other corrections facilities during the previous week.

In addition, 112 women were housed in the Women's Justice Services program, 162 women were on Sheriff's furlough, and 15 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.

Report on Length of Detainment

Kurtovich also presented a report, in response to the Board's earlier request, indicating the length of stay for current inmates in custody: the largest number, 3,060 were held less than 31 days; Approximately 73% of detainees are held less than 180 days. 200 minimum security detainees are released by the courts each day. The smallest number, 27 have been held approximately 5 to 6 years. Kurtovich credited Judge Marovitz for helping reduce the length of detainment. Marovitz arranged an agreement under which so far, 7,000 State parolees awaiting trial, have been transferred from the jail to state facilities.

Unusual Occurrences

Chair McGowan stated that a source in Internal Affairs had reported to her, that a juvenile detainee had found an officer's gun, which had apparently been misplaced. Mr. Kurtovich and Ms. Whittler stated, to the contrary, that the Internal Affairs Investigation found that the gun had accidentally fallen from its lock box, into lunch bags which were brought over for the juvenile detainees, but the gun was immediately recovered from the security officer to whom the bags were delivered. The officer whose gun was involved will be disciplined.

Whittler and Kurtovich were especially concerned about the fact that McGowan was contacted during an on-going investigation. Whittler claimed that this aggravates existing morale problems, which already exist due to the stressful nature of the job.

New Executive Director Appointed

The Board voted to commend Mr. Kurtovich for his cooperation and help during the time that he was acting Executive Director. Kurtovich will continue as Assistant Executive Director, under the newly appointed Executive Director, Salvador Godinas.

The Board adjourned and went into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa