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JAMES M. Le BLANC
Secretary

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections

APR - 8 2011

April 5, 2011

Rafael C. Goyeneche, III
President
Metropolitan Crime Commission, Inc.
1615 Poydras Street, Suite 1060
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mr. Goyeneche,

Thank you again for taking the time to visit with me and my staff last week concerning the Department's reentry initiatives. As we discussed, the outcome of discussions relative to the size of the parish prison in Orleans will certainly have an impact on the success of our reentry initiatives for Orleans and the surrounding region.

As I shared with you, we have a cooperative endeavor agreement with Sherriff Gusman which creates a partnership to provide reentry services to offenders who are releasing back to the Orleans and surrounding areas after serving their state sentencing in local jails. We have committed to funding up to 225 slots for this program, though we are only utilizing 60 slots currently due to program space limitations. In addition, we have a separate agreement with Sheriff Gusman which provides a Day Reporting Center as an alternative to revocation for offenders under supervision by Probation and Parole in that area.

These Orleans efforts have been made based the fact that nearly 25% of the Department's offenders are from the Orleans and surrounding areas. The parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, account for 10,913 of the 40,864 offenders who are currently in our custody. To give you a better idea of the Orleans area criminal justice system on our Department, I have attached several of the charts that reflect the number I discussed with you last week.

We work closely with Sheriff Gusman to provide reentry for the southeast region of the state, with great emphasis on reducing recidivism, thus victimization. But, we hope that the Commission also recognizes the importance of the programs offered through the Sheriff's office and their impact in the region. Currently, when an offender is convicted in one of the previously noted parishes, they are typically sent to a local jail in north Louisiana to

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serve their state time. Once their incarceration phase of the sentence is complete, they are more often than not, returned to the area of conviction. In the case of offenders from the southeast region, they are often returned from north Louisiana with little opportunity for establishing connections in their community or engaging the family in the offender's reentry plan. Our work with Sheriff Gusman is aimed at making these connections. Likewise, we are working to find opportunities to expand the availability of transitional work program (work release) opportunities for the southeast region. Currently there are only 65 transitional work program slots in Orleans and 41 slots in St. Charles to service the 7,000 plus returns to that region each year. We know that offenders who participate in transitional work programs are less likely to recidivate, so it only makes sense that we work to increase these opportunities in the Orleans area.

Lastly, it is important to point out again that the Division of Probation and Parole relies on the availability of space at the Orleans Parish Jail for revocation cases. Our staff are somewhat concerned about the impact of the jail size outcome in regards to this function as we estimate that we detain an average of 700 offenders at Orleans per month for violations.

I trust that this information is of interest to you and want to express to you again my appreciation for your interest in learning more about our Department and it's criminal justice initiatives as they relate to the Orleans and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,



James M. Le Blanc
Secretary

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A. Releases & Admissions

2010	Releases	Admissions	Current Pop
Jefferson	1,637	2,961	4,910
Orleans	1,532	3,820	5,283
Plaquemines	79	130	114
St. Bernard	107	265	180
St. Charles	110	254	218
St. John the Baptist	86	154	208
Total	3,551	7,584	10,913
*Admits include Revocations			

B. Probation & Parole Supervision

PNP-Current Population	
Jefferson	5,345
Orleans	5,482
Plaquemines	437
St. Bernard	449
St. Charles	602
St. John the Baptist	370
Total	12,685

C. Probation and Parole Intake & Successful Completions

	2010 PNP Intake	2010 PNP Successful Completions
Jefferson	2,736	1,590
Orleans	3,161	1,227
Plaquemines	158	102
St. Bernard	276	121
St. Charles	247	159
St. John the Baptist	168	79
TOTAL	6,746	3,278