

The District Court of Nebraska

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CHAMBERS OF JUDGE JOHN D. HARTIGAN, JR., HALL OF JUSTICE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68183
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DIANE J. GREENFIELD
BAILIFF

SALLY R. PARRACK, RPR, CSR
REPORTER

December 2, 1998

Dr. Alan Kalmanoff
Executive Director
Institute for Law & Policy Planning
P. O. Box 5137
Berkeley, CA 94705

Re: Douglas County Nebraska
Criminal Justice Assessments & Recommendation

Dear Dr. Kalmanoff:

Your engagement by Douglas County to do an examination of our criminal justice system, involved an investigation of broad scope and intensity. Our system had not experienced such a study before and your conclusions from that study sparked a good deal of productive discussion and excitement about the prospects for improvement in this area. I would be pleased to recommend the Institute to other jurisdictions who might be considering a similar analysis.

Our criminal justice enterprise, probably like many others around the country, is a collection of institutions and customs that have grown up over a century and a half, with changes occurring only as emergencies arose from time to time. Many governmental entities are involved, as the purchasers, and users of services within it. The cultural and historical makeup of the system, with all of its varied and sometimes competing interests, have made it very difficult for any particular problem to be addressed in isolation.

Your planning assessment, and action plan, appear to provide Douglas County with a methodology to address our institutional needs, in a comprehensive way. Perhaps our community lags behind others in the country, but this is the first time that we have, with your help, begun a coordinated effort to analyze and to improve the operation of the criminal justice system, for the benefit of the citizens here in Douglas County.

We are just beginning to implement our action plan, so perhaps I ought to qualify my enthusiasm a little bit. We won't know for perhaps several years, whether these efforts will bear fruit, although some of the easy, agency specific proposals have already been addressed. Whether our overall, longer range efforts will be successful, however, is something that is left up to the folks here in Douglas County. The plan includes not only process issues, but also a capital improvements component. You and the Institute have done an excellent

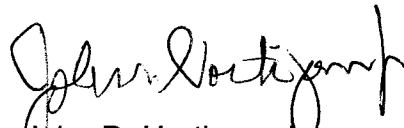
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job in providing us with the guidebook that we need.

This has been a most worthwhile exercise for me. I am excited about our prospects for implementing a meaningful plan, and would be glad to assist you in explaining the evaluation and recommendation work that you do for other communities who might be considering your retention.

If I can be of any assistance to you in the future, please give me a call. Happy holidays to you, your family, and everyone at the Institute.

Yours very truly,



John D. Hartigan, Jr.
District Judge

JDH:djg

cc: Ms. Kathy Kelley