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Kathleen A. Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer

July 8, 1999

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

When Douglas County contracted with the Institute for Law and Policy Planning in January, 1998, it proved to be the catalyst for stabilizing an ever increasing jail population within the Douglas County Correctional Center.

After the first visit of the ILPP team, recommendations were forthcoming and upon implementation favorably impacted the jail population immediately.

One year ago today, Douglas County was facing a crisis. Today, the population has stabilized through ILPP's presentation of how to bring efficiencies within the criminal justice system that affect jail population.

Without a doubt the ILPP study, in my opinion, was the most cost effective initiative Douglas County has pursued in its efforts to address jail overcrowding.

Alan Kalmanoff and the team he assembled were very effective in their ability through interviews and discussion to obtain "buy ins" from all segments of the criminal justice system. Common purposes and goals have unified our system for the first time in Douglas County history.

Meetings of all parties have been held monthly since ILPP entered the County in February 1998. We are presently implementing ILPP's recommendations with abundant success to date.

All primary players attend the monthly meetings regularly -- The Omaha Police Chief, Mayor's representative, City Council President, Douglas County Attorney, Public Defender, Presiding County, District, Juvenile Court Judges, Court Administrators, County Chief Administrative Officer, Sheriff, and Corrections Director -- first time ever.

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The purpose of the meetings is to discuss issues of mutual concern and primarily to implement each ILPP recommendation.

Turf issues and barriers have dissolved with defined goals presented in the master plan and regular monthly communication.

As Chief Administrative Officer of Douglas County, I unequivocally recommend ILPP to all jurisdictions facing overcrowding and am available to answer inquiries of the Douglas County experience at 402/444-6237.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Kelley".

Kathleen Kelley
Chief Administrative Officer

KK:ckm