



SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Pride in Service to Our Community

R. R. "Rick" Bart
Sheriff

March 5, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Kalmanoff;

For several years many challenges have prompted Snohomish County government to look for efficiencies in our law and justice system. Such things as jail overcrowding, rapidly growing system-wide budgets, system delays, a lack of alternative incarceration, and better work scheduling issues demanded the system examine itself for solutions to these ever growing problems. In 2002 an efficiency study of Snohomish County's criminal justice system was launched after a request for proposal was outlined and made public. The Institute for Law & Policy Planning was awarded a contract and completed their study in January 2003. I supported the intent and the necessity for the study as the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office is a vital piece to the law and justice puzzle.

What followed was an intense information gathering process by the Institute wherein the appropriate data and discussions were assimilated. The Institute had to negotiate dangerous political waters in the Executive's Office, County Council Offices and all of the law and justice departments and elected Office's (including mine). This was accomplished with the utmost professionalism and integrity in a timely manner.

The results of the study were made public on January 21, 2003. The Institute did exactly what the request for proposal outlined and went even further in an attempt to solve some of our nagging system-wide problems. As of this date we are expectedly still struggling with many of the issues outlined in the rfp, however several of the recommendations of the Institute have been successfully implemented. Without the Institutes assistance, in the form of this study, I do not believe Snohomish County law and justice would be as far down the road to recovery as we now are.

I believe we are more efficient and on a path to recovery in part because of the work product the Institute produced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rick Bart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Bart
Snohomish County Sheriff