

July 8, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

The Institute for Law & Policy Planning completed an evaluation of Hennepin County's jail overcrowding problems in 1998. The work ILPP presented to the Board of County Commissioners is predicted to produce savings in operating costs and later in construction costs. The work substantially aided our county in not only controlling exploding criminal justice expenditures but, perhaps more importantly, it pushed all of our elected officials to work together in implementing global justice solutions. Not only do I recommend ILPP's work to any locality seeking tangible improvements in their planning and management, but we have retained ILPP for a second effort to oversee comprehensive system-wide strategic planning.

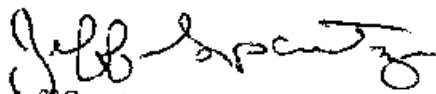
ILPP's team was thorough, professional and sensitive to our local issues. Executive Director, Dr. Alan Kalmanoff skillfully coordinated his team of experts and facilitated meetings of the county's criminal justice leadership. The ILPP team presented, in clear language, the first real assessment of our entire justice system. The study's methodology included both in-depth quantitative and qualitative analyses of the jail population and court case load, yet I did not have to waste time trying to make sense of endless statistics. Problems were articulated clearly and options for change were prioritized intelligently.

Dr. Kalmanoff's approach was forthright and sensitive, demonstrating an admirable ability to objectively assess our situation in a politically charged environment. While the county's interest in having a criminal justice study emerged from our overcrowded jail, ILPP examined all agencies, pointing out how policies throughout the system have positive or negative impacts on efficient management of the jail.

An especially notable quality of the ILPP team was its emphasis on implementation. Toward this end Dr. Kalmanoff and his colleagues worked extensively with key criminal justice leaders in the county, including a large (58 judges) and fragmented Bench. The result is that the County has now set in place a key group of stakeholders to move on the execution of many of ILPP's recommendations. It is a pleasure to see our system now focused on common goals rather than political intrigue.

ILPP can help any county by clearly showing local leaders where the problems are and how to work through them, producing savings in resources and facilitating cooperation among diverse agencies.

Sincerely,



Jeff Spartz  
Administrator