



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS County of Dane

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October 3, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

The Dane County Board of Supervisors retained the services of the Institute for Law and Policy Planning (ILPP) in March, 2007 to conduct a comprehensive criminal justice system assessment. We have found their report to be thorough, insightful, and most helpful in setting a course for improved efficiencies in our justice system.

Dane County, Wisconsin has a population of approximately 460,000 people, and is home to Wisconsin's capital city of Madison. We have seventeen elected circuit court judges, and also separately elect the District Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk of Courts and County Executive. The county is governed by a thirty-seven member Board of Supervisors, who elect their own chair.

Over the last several years, Dane County has been faced with increasing jail populations, the need for facilities improvements, and renting jail beds in other counties. We asked the ILPP, led by Dr. Alan Kalmanoff, to come into this complex, politically sensitive system in the hopes that he could identify improvements that could be undertaken in order to relieve jail overcrowding in the near term, and provide longer term efficiencies in the operations of the courts and other parts of the system

We were very impressed with the quality of the ILPP team that worked on this project. We found the ILPP team to be professional, knowledgeable, and skilled in working with the range of municipal, county and state government staff and elected officials who have roles in the Dane County system.

I found Dr. Kalmanoff to be candid, direct and independent, yet very responsive to our concerns and issues. He was more than willing to discuss his findings and recommendations with the various elected officials who are stakeholders in the system, and accommodate their concerns, while at the same time maintaining his objectivity and critical insights.

In the budget currently being considered by the County Board, we have used the ILPP assessment to estimate \$3 million in savings this year alone. We have also put on hold several expensive jail expansion plans until our actual jail bed needs are determined. If you have any questions, feel free to call my office at 608-266-5758.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott McDonell".

Supervisor Scott McDonell, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors