



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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May 18, 1994

To Whom it may concern:

**RE: LETTER OF REFERENCE FOR THE INSTITUTE
FOR LAW & POLICY PLANNING**

ILPP completed a County Department of Corrections Feasibility Study for Yakima County in July 1993. Based on the final product and the work of the firm's personnel, led by Executive Director Alan Kalmanoff, I enthusiastically recommend ILPP to other jurisdictions seeking strong planning expertise in the area of criminal justice and corrections.

When Yakima County contracted with ILPP, we were facing a serious and long-term criminal justice funding crisis. More than 70% of our general fund revenues were going to criminal justice spending, primarily for the Sheriff's jail and law enforcement operations, and this figure was on the rise.

Based on ILPP's data based analysis of our jail population, combined with interviews of our criminal justice leaders, they ultimately recommended county management form a county Department of Corrections. Transferring a major function like a jail from its traditional administrator required extraordinary skill, which ILPP provided. ILPP services included facilitating discussions with the Sheriff regarding this decision and provision of a temporary jail administrator which allowed a seamless transition in management that, in turn, allowed us to maintain a constructive relationship between our County Commission and the Sheriff.

ILPP did not simply come in, make a recommendation and leave; all of the team members were committed to working with our county towards implementation. To that extent, the report ILPP submitted outlined a correctional management plan for a new and thriving correctional organization. While we are still in a period of low revenue growth, the proportion of the general fund consumed by the jail is markedly declining as a direct result of our changes and implementation of additional recommendations such as expanded use of appropriate pretrial release and alternatives to incarceration.

I commend the services of ILPP to any jurisdiction that faces the tough challenge of balancing funding constraints with maximum public safety. ILPP's work is comprehensive, straight forward, and results-oriented.

Sincerely

Chuck Klarich, Chairman
Yakima County Board of County Commissioners

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