



Judge's Chambers

SOMERSET COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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JOHN M. CASCIO
PRESIDENT JUDGE

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July 12, 2007

Dr. Alan Kalmanoff
Institute for Law and Policy Planning
2613 Hillegass Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704

Dear Dr. Kalmanoff:

I am writing this letter following the receipt of the draft of the Comprehensive Report prepared by the Institute providing a detailed assessment of the Criminal Justice System here in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. You will recall that District Attorney Jerry Spangler and I met you about 2 ½ years ago at a Conference sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in State College, Pennsylvania and we began discussing our issues and concerns regarding the operation of our justice system here in Somerset County.

From that meeting grew a subsequent meeting with the Somerset County Commissioners in which you outlined the services which would be available from the Institute in an effort to help us address very pressing problems in our justice system, particularly a severely overcrowded jail. We have had the pleasure of working with you and several members of your professional staff in providing data and personal input into what has now been crafted as a most detailed and informative Draft Report.

We were all extremely impressed with the people with whom we have dealt and with the quality of the product that we have received. Although we are still in the review stage and awaiting the Final Report, the detailed analysis and comprehensive recommendations are currently subject to evaluation by various professionals in our operation in preparation of implementation.

What we expected was an overview of the system and its operations and some guidance with respect to efforts to streamline, consolidate and reinvigorate the



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various components of the system to allow us to perform our function much more efficiently. What we received was significantly more than that. The opportunity to share experiences, problems and propose solutions with the professional members of your staff and you yourself has given us a significant opportunity to evaluate ourselves as we also review your view of the strengths and weaknesses of this entire operation.

I am proud of the cooperation you received from members of our system and am pleased at the overall product. The evaluation was extraordinarily fair, brutally honest and, much more importantly, extremely encouraging to all of us.

Throughout this process I believe all of us have come to the realization that we proceed with the Institute as partners rather than as evaluators and subjects, a most professional approach which has resulted in great acceptance of the evaluation and recommendations.

We certainly look forward to further implementation of the recommendations and, likewise, continued involvement with you and the other representatives of the Institute as we move forward to improve our system in the future.

We also recognize and appreciate the significant effort that you yourself have put into this project particularly your willingness to continue to be involved with us as we proceed through the implementation process.

I would be most pleased if you would share this with others who are interested in utilizing your services and certainly would be willing to speak with anyone who has any questions with respect to our experience.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John M. Cascio

JMC:bd