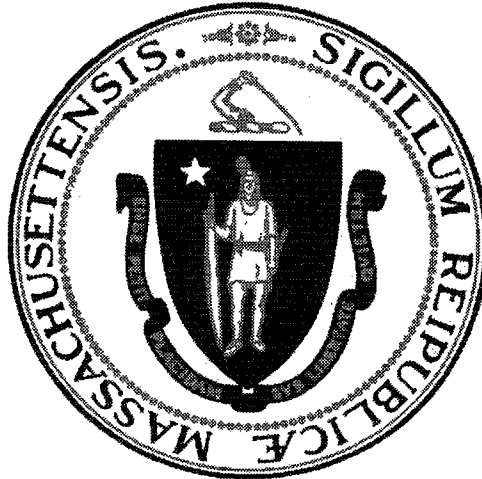


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Correction Advisory Council



Preliminary Report

Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lieutenant Governor

Edward A. Flynn
Secretary of Public Safety

Scott Harshbarger
Chairman

June 17, 2005



Department of Correction Advisory Council
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133, Boston, Massachusetts
02108

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SCOTT HARSHBARGER
CHAIRMAN

June 17, 2005

Edward A. Flynn
Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety
One Ashburton Place, Room 2133
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Secretary Flynn:

I am pleased to present to you the preliminary report of the Department of Correction Advisory Council ("Advisory Council"), pursuant to Executive Order #461. This report provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the report of the Governor's Commission on Corrections Reform (GCCR) issued on June 30, 2004, and highlights areas for further review.

As you recall, the GCCR report contained eighteen recommendations to promote public safety, accountability and fiscal responsibility. The recommendations were developed with the knowledge that the vast majority of state inmates will eventually be released, and yet nearly half of those released will be convicted of a new crime within just three-years. The GCCR called for tough but smart action to break this on-going cycle of crime, victimization and re-incarceration.

You will note that the Advisory Council's overall conclusion is that the DOC's progress thus far is impressive. We applaud Commissioner Kathleen Dennehy and her staff for using the GCCR report as a roadmap for change, and for making great strides over the past year. While much has been achieved, more work remains. The GCCR report set forth an ambitious, multi-year agenda that called upon a host of external stakeholders to take action as well. To this end, I must emphasize one of our major conclusions: the DOC cannot do it alone. Meaningful change will require action by a multitude of state and local stakeholders. We urge them to join with and support Commissioner Dennehy's efforts to achieve long-term gains in public safety and fiscal efficiency. John Gardner, the Head of Common Cause, wrote that "life is full of golden opportunities masked as insurmountable obstacles." This is one of those "golden opportunities" and our challenge is to seize this moment to dramatically improve public safety. It can be done, if we have the will and the requisite sense of urgency.

Sincerely,



Scott Harshbarger
Chair, Department of Correction Advisory Council

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