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NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. John Wolff, Legal Specialist
Office of the Executive Director
New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission
1001 Spruce Street – Suite 202
Trenton, NJ 08638

Re: Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 13:101-1.3, 4.2, 5.2, 5.6, 6, 7, and 8.1

Mr. Wolff:

The New Jersey Superior Officers Association is the duly authorized bargaining agent for Law Enforcement Officers, employed by the State of New Jersey, holding the rank of lieutenant and/or its equivalent. As such, we represent employees serving in the title of Correction Lieutenant, Juvenile Justice.

I am responding to the Commission's proposal to amend statute with regard to inmate disciplinary adjudications. It is my understanding that the Commission proposes to change the manner in which a juvenile inmate's disciplinary charges are handled. Specifically, the Commission proposes to replace the "Treatment Team model and to have juvenile disciplinary hearings conducted by a single hearing officer. I further understand that this is the only substantial change, and that all other aspects of the juvenile inmate disciplinary procedure would remain the same.

Please be advised that, after consultation with our members employed within the Juvenile Justice Commission, we find that this proposed change would serve to improve employee and inmate safety while still maintaining fair disciplinary proceedings for juvenile offenders. Please consider this letter in full support of the changes proposed.

If we may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Smith, President

CC: JJC Representatives
file