

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SCOTT HARSHBARGER
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Flynn:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed".

I am writing to follow-up on our meeting last Thursday, November 10th regarding the release of the Department of Correction Advisory Council's final report and plans for the Council's future role. Based on that meeting and our other conversations over the past several weeks, I have decided that it is time for me to step down as Chair, effective with the public release of the Final Report or December 1, whichever is earlier. Therefore, I must also respectfully decline your invitation to continue to serve as Chair of the Advisory Council under the new executive order.

I want to thank you and Governor Romney for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Corrections Reform and the Department of Correction Advisory Council over the past two years. It has been an honor for me to serve as Chair, and I am deeply grateful to my colleagues on the Council and our exceptional co-directors for their outstanding performance and dedicated service.

As you know, we all strongly support the concept of a Corrections Advisory Council to ensure that the tremendous amount of public dollars we spend on corrections is being utilized to maximize public safety. In my view, notable progress has been made toward reforming the state prison system since the GCCR issued its report with 18 recommendations to strengthen public safety and increase fiscal accountability. As you know, the Department of Correction has made substantial progress on internal reforms under the leadership of Commissioner Kathleen Dennehy. In the Advisory Council's Preliminary Report issued in June of this year, we created a strong plan for continued monitoring of the Department's reform efforts, which are based on the recommendations from the Governor's Commission on Corrections Reform, with periodic

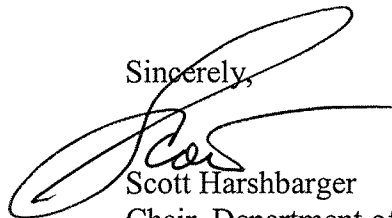
updates on 16 performance measures. I hope that in its next phase the Council will continue to use these performance measures to monitor the Department's progress.

The current Council has accomplished virtually all that it can with the mission and authority it has been given. In my view, as we have discussed for several weeks, the next phase of the Advisory Council's work should be focused on advancing the priorities and recommendations set forth in the Advisory Council's Final Report submitted to you on October 25, 2005. In this report, we established a "priority agenda for action" comprised of 6 critically important items. The agenda was accompanied with the following cautionary statement: "*absent these changes, we can not state with any certainty that the DOC's reform efforts will succeed, nor that crime caused by returning inmates will decline in the Commonwealth.*"

In this vein, I believe that over the coming year the Advisory Council should focus on advancing the priority agenda for action. In addition, the Council should work on supporting the Final Report's recommendations regarding female offenders and health and mental health issues. These tasks will necessarily involve focusing on some recommendations that are beyond the Department's direct control, such as those that concern post-release supervision, sentencing practices and legislation, inmate reentry strategies, and creation of an Inspector General for Corrections. To be most effective on these complex issues, the Council must have authority, apart from other political interests, to advocate with the Legislature and other relevant parties, make decisions regarding the release of its work, communicate with the press and the public, and convene key parties.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to you and the Governor for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Correction Reform and the Department of Correction Advisory Council. I hope that the work of these two dedicated groups will continue to provide a road map towards reform and increased public safety and fiscal accountability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Harshbarger', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Scott Harshbarger

Chair, Department of Correction Advisory Council