



The Florida House of Representatives

Representative David Richardson

113th District

BY HAND
March 23, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Scott,

This letter confirms my discussions with members of your staff yesterday concerning the Gadsden Correctional Institution (Gadsden) currently under the management of private contractor Management and Training Corporation (MTC). As you know, since the summer of 2015 I have invested significant time reviewing correctional facilities and operations in the state of Florida.

My early work was necessarily focused on tamping down violence in the male youthful offender facilities. As progress was made in this area, I moved on to other issues requiring attention. On February 9, 2017, I made an unannounced visit to Gadsden for the purpose of reviewing certain matters related to educational programming that I observed in late 2015.

What I learned during my February 9th visit to Gadsden was alarming, because I identified significant inmate health and safety concerns. I appreciate the significant time and resources that Secretary Poppell has dedicated to reviewing the matters and effecting changes. While some of the concerns stem from much needed infrastructure repairs, other concerns stem from what appears to be overly aggressive contractor cost cutting measures that have resulted in conditions that affect inmate health and safety.

*Appropriations Committee, Public Integrity & Ethics Committee,
Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Rules & Policy Committee*

REPLY TO:

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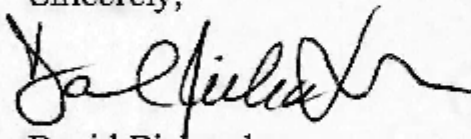
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While certain improvements have been effected, I have had several reports of retaliation against inmates for discussing matters with me. These allegations are under investigation, but it appears unlikely they will be substantiated since the threats are apparently disguised as a result of other issues, such as poor inmate order and dorm cleanliness. My most recent visit last Friday, March 17th, confirmed that inmate health and safety issues persist. I briefed your staff on these issues yesterday.

By this letter, I am requesting respectfully that you utilize your powers as Governor to issue an executive order directing the Florida Department of Corrections to install a temporary Warden, Chief of Security, and other resources you deem necessary to restore order and reverse what I can only describe currently as a loss of institutional control.

I stand ready to meet with you or your staff to further discuss these matters at your pleasure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Richardson", written over a faint, large watermark that says "CAPTIONED".

David Richardson

cc: Speaker Richard Corcoran
President Joe Negron
Secretary Chad Poppell, Department of Management Services
Secretary Julie Jones, Florida Department of Correction