



State of South Carolina Office of the Inspector General

March 8, 2016

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton
Legislative Oversight Committee, South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: State Inspector General Initiating Review at the Department of Juvenile Justice

Dear Chairman Newton,

As a result of the Legislative Oversight Committee, South Carolina House of Representatives, ongoing oversight study of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), sufficient information has been developed from interviews, surveys, and public testimony to predicate the State Inspector General (SIG) initiating a review of allegations surfaced. The SIG's preliminary scope focuses on allegations that DJJ incident reports are being intentionally misreported, not reported, and lost or destroyed before reaching all the proper channels at DJJ. Impingement of the integrity of incident reporting needed to manage the well-being of a high risk juvenile population has the potential to impact the safety of both the juveniles and employees, as well as undermine the public and oversight's trust and confidence in the agency.

From my conversations last week with the key stakeholders, these allegations need prioritized resolution to allow all stakeholders to have confidence of understanding the conditions on the ground relative to accurate incident reporting and safety concerns. The SIG review will provide the agency and legislative oversight an objective assessment of the key facts within our scope of review to facilitate decision making on potential corrective actions, if needed. The SIG will also pursue administrative accountability for any intentional act(s) identified undermining the integrity of the incident reporting system.

I will personally participate in this review with lead Investigator Brian Lamkin, along with an experienced staff attorney. The team has over 50 years of law enforcement and decades of management/leadership experience to understand the challenges and complexities of managing a high risk, incarcerated juvenile population. I will provide sufficient resources to move this review along as quickly as feasible.

Director Murry, DJJ, welcomed the SIG's review. The SIG will be on-site at DJJ on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, to initiate its review.

I thank you and your staff in advance for your cooperation during this review.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted

Patrick J. Maley
State Inspector General

PM/pm