

PBA Local 382

Essex County DOC

Memorandum

June 23, 2012

RE: *Recent Investigative NY Times Report & Public Exposure of Delaney Hall, Logan Hall, Bo Robinson and the Statewide Halfway House System, As Well As Political Overtones & Corruption Within The Privatized System & Local Jail Rumors On Officer Assignments.*

To: *All PBA Members, County Officials in Essex, Camden, Passaic, Union, Salem, Mercer, State Officials, State Legislators, CEC Officials, All Media Outlets.*

We have several new officers within our local and statewide ranks for whom this may all sound new, but if you were with us within the past 8 years or so, you are well aware that the PBA on both a county and state level have made several public complaints regarding the misuse of Privately Run Re-Entry/Rehabilitation Facilities and especially Delaney Hall & Logan Hall here in Essex, Bo Robinson down in Mercer and the way in which these facilities are being permitted to hold **high risk and recidivist pre- adjudicated county inmates** who as we know, belong behind the walls of the legitimate correctional system.

These complaints have consistently been sent by me directly to all state and county officials and throughout the years, our State PBA and individual county PBA leadership has made these same government officials well aware of this dangerous practice.

Many times we made formal complaints to all federal, state and county **investigative agencies** and had asked the Commissioner of the NJDOC to intervene into this dangerous use of these makeshift jails in regard uncontrolled crime and gang violence occurring there and how this misuse overshadows any shred of true and legitimate drug rehabilitation, which the PBA concedes if applied properly, does in fact serve a purpose to **truly deserving, low risk, drug addicted inmates.** What may have begun as an **"alternative to incarceration"** for these **needy people within our jail and prison system** has been turned into a **profit based and politically protected human trade business** where **inmates are used as a commodity and even murder was overlooked as to not interfere with the millions being generated.**

Profit for the vendor itself and profit for the political campaigns of those who do business with the vendor.

Money is what drives the entire jail privatization movement where **price tags are put on the heads of the inmates** and it amazes me that our obviously educated elected leaders are part of it and that others in county government are seeking to become part of it.

These complaints made by the PBA have been either fully ignored or our elected officials had sometimes responded by simply claiming in the media that the PBA was wrong and that all of the inmates we send to the "Private Jails" are low risk, short term offenders due to soon be released, **but we know the true facts.**

Due to the **false perception** that this back door form of jail privatization is efficient and economical and by mistakingly looking at Essex & Mercer County as some sort of role models, several counties in the state had explored the idea of entering into agreements with these failed private vendors and thankfully, most of these counties had been shown the light by the PBA, but as we speak...**Union and Salem County are currently moving in the direction of possible jail privatization** and **Camden County is still toying with the idea of building one of these slanted rehab facilities**, which I sincerely hope will be reconsidered by the end of this narrative and considering what's recently made **national news.**

Unfortunately, the local media never quite fully took up this issue as to get to the crux of the problem, which I assume was due to the political gravity of the situation and I would also assume that this is why its been so easy for our county officials to discredit the PBA's concerns, **until now.**

Just when we thought there was no hope that a media outlet would ever fully investigate the issues in these facilities, the NY Times published a **3 part investigative report** within the past week or so, which not only fully vindicates and qualifies the concerns, which we have publicized for many years, but they have uncovered even more horrific activity in these and other facilities within the **obviously corrupted private jail/halfway house system.**

Murder, rape, assault, gang activity, over 5000 escapes etc. and this gang activity had been the subject of recent court testimony regarding a murder which occurred in Delaney Hall where the actual convicted murderer had been used by DH officials to teach classes and in this same court testimony along with the entire NYT report, it was fully revealed in the inmates own words, that **inmates run the show, counselors are scared to death and criminal enterprises exist behind the walls of**

these 3 facilities used by Essex and Mercer Counties for pre-adjudicated county inmates.

There will be much more to say as this case continues to unfold and while our elected officials run for cover due to the fact that they **were aware and did nothing**, but continued to add more and more high risk inmates into these facilities, **which as we speak is still occurring**.

Please see the three Internet links below and in the age of Blackberries and Smart Phones, I would say that it would be worth your time to view these Internet reports on a regular computer so you can see all the side articles, pictures and videos of first hand accounts of what we always knew goes on behind the walls of this **fake jail system**.

In media reports that followed the NYT reports, all involved elected and appointed officials as well as CEC executives are doing their best to put on their game face and act as if its no big deal, but trust me that everyone from the Statehouse to the jail system **is in panic mode** and have spent days since the reports trying to figure out how to answer for their public exposure.

Rumor here in Essex:

The one rumor I heard here in Essex and obviously as a way for **our county officials to lighten their guilt**, was a plan to **assign correction officers into the private facilities** and while I can't confirm the actual plan going into effect, I can confirm that discussions were held and I have already been contacted by several officers who said...**I'm not going!!!**

While I would agree with any officers concerns on being assigned to these **private death traps**, I would rather not see any officers refuse a direct order if given, but I can assure you that any ridiculous plan to **assign publicly employed and publicly funded correction officers to a private facility** will be **addressed in court immediately** and argued that this would be another **politically corrupt action** made by county officials in regard to an **already corrupted county contract** with a **corrupted private vendor**, aside from the **numerous labor/contractual/civil service type litigation which will be filed by the PBA**.

As far as the PBA is concerned, **real correction officers will not be used to protect the posers** or used as pawns so that elected officials can save face for wrongfully sending our violent inmates out to these facilities in the first place.

This private company as you will see in the reports, was paid millions upon millions for years as they built this fake jail empire, which now I would hope is going to be dismantled.

Why should correction officers be sent to bail out the billionaires now that they have been exposed as politically protected failures?

Furthermore I don't think correction officers should be subjected to watching violent gang members teaching life skill seminars or working side by side with x-inmates who are now called counselors.

Even furthermore, I doubt it would be a good idea to give our officers and PBA members a birds eye view to these discount jails and a view of what's been fully disclosed and reported by the NY Times as we move forward with our complaints.

Now that the issues have been exposed, I would suggest bringing the privatized pre-adjudicated inmates back to jail rather than trying to bring the jail to the privatized inmates.

Yes, I'm gloating, but bare with me because this has been an 8 year ordeal of he-said- she-said banter where my personal honesty and integrity as well as the honesty and integrity of the entire PBA was insulted and if I need to resend the years of documents showing that the PBA warned everyone and predicted that this day will come, I can do that in 10 minutes, but there's probably no need for that.

The PBA has been fully vindicated by the NY Times report and the last thing our elected officials need at this point is to be further embarrassed with proof that they were advised if not "WARNED" and did nothing.

Our county executive has already made public statements that "HE WASNT AWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS IN DELANEY HALL", but in the same article he did in fact categorize DH as being a "jail", which it is not and this is no time for our county executive or any other statewide elected leader to play the "Nobody Told Me" routine.

Or in the case of our Governor... he's trying to claim in recent media reports that these issues occurred before he took office, which in some individual cases, may be true, but as US Attorney or as Governor, he too was fully informed going back many years and his office was given recent information by the PBA as recent as this past February.

As I said earlier, there will be much more to do and say as the issues unravel, but in the mean time, please take the time to read the reports below.

Thank you for your time and for the continued support of our membership.
Respectfully,

Joe Amato, President
PBA Local 382