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State of Illinois
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT
FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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May 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate
The Honorable Tom Cross, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State
Arthur Bishop, Director Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Regarding the Closure of the Illinois Youth Center – Joliet

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Illinois Youth Center at Joliet and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for that facility. A motion to accept the recommendation for closure failed on a vote of 5-5. A copy of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Juvenile Justice officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Illinois Youth Center at Joliet (IYC-Joliet) on February, 22, 2012. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10): "In the case of a proposed closure of: (i) a prison, youth center, work camp or work release center operated by the Department of Corrections; (ii) a school, mental health center, or center for the developmentally disabled operated by the Department of Human Services; or (iii) a residential facility operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission must require the executive branch officers to file a recommendation for closure. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Commission requested the required recommendation on March 1, 2012. The Department of Juvenile Justice submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 16, 2012. Following the State Facility Closure Act requirements for conducting a public hearing within 35 days after the filing of the recommendation and no more than 25 miles from the facility, the Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the closure of the IYC-Joliet on April 4, 2012 at 10:00 am at the Renaissance Center in Joliet, Illinois.

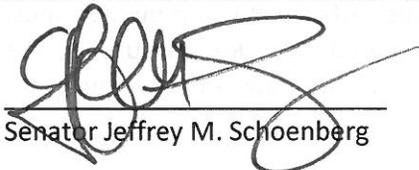
IYC-Joliet was opened in 1959 on a 140 acre site in Joliet. This specific facility was built using federal funds and specifically designed for working with a youth population. The youth population at this Level One Maximum male facility at the time of recommendation for closure by the Department of Juvenile Justice is 230 (average daily population). As of March 2012, IYC-Joliet has 226 staff members including facility and School District staff who would be affected by the closure of the facility.

In regards to the issue of employees affected by the proposed closure, DJJ and DOC are treated as one agency. As such, staff impacted by the proposed closure of IYC-Joliet can seek vacancies in DJJ and DOC. DJJ has noted the existence of a small number of vacancies available at the IYC-Warrenville and St. Charles facilities, both located within 34 miles from IYC-Joliet. IYC-St. Charles, Chicago and Kewanee facilities will also add staff (30 additional staff at St. Charles and 5 each at Chicago and Kewanee) to accommodate transfers from IYC-Joliet, the positions of which will be available for staff from IYC-Joliet. DJJ estimates that given the numbers of youths that will be released on parole or "age-out" of the Joliet facility and be transferred to DOC, approximately 100 youths at IYC-Joliet will be transferred to other DJJ facilities. DJJ states that capacity for an additional 310 boys is available at facilities in northern Illinois (Kewanee, St. Charles, Chicago).

The expected FY 2013 cost for IYC-Joliet is \$19,686,700. The Department of Juvenile Justice estimates that the cost savings from closing the facility by July 31, 2012 would be \$17,117,000. However, this number is offset by the costs of housing the youths currently in Joliet at existing facilities and opening new positions at facilities to handle the inflow (\$5,376,764), which brings the total cost savings for FY 2013 to be \$11,740,236.

The Department of Juvenile Justice provided a report created by the University of Illinois, through their Regional Economics Applications Laboratory. This report measures the impact from the proposed closure on the community of Joliet and the surrounding region. In the report, it is noted that for every facility job, approximately 0.4 additional jobs are created, for a total of 306 jobs (219 direct jobs plus 87 jobs). In addition, the impact of the facility on the economy in regards to sales and income taxes is significant. According to the report, sales taxes produced from the facility (and the individuals who are employed through it or as a result of it) in the local/regional economy equal approximately \$314,649. Income taxes produced in the same manner equal approximately \$212,238.

After hearing testimony from the Department of Juvenile Justice and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission (on a 5-5 vote) voted to reject the Department of Juvenile Justice recommendation to close the IYC-Joliet.


Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg


Representative Patricia R. Bellock

**MOTION:
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF
ILLINOIS YOUTH CENTER JOLIET**

Pursuant to the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), after hearing testimony regarding the proposed closure of **Illinois Youth Center in Joliet, Illinois**, I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability accept the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice regarding Illinois Youth Center Joliet.

MOTION / VOTE

Illinois Youth Center JOLIET

Date: May 1, 2012 - 10:30 a.m. in Room 212, State House

<i>Commission Member</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)		✓
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)		✓
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)	VACANT	
Senator Matt Murphy (R)	✓	
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		✓
Representative Al Riley (D)	—	—
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)		✓
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)	✓	
Senator David Syverson (R)		✓
Senator Donne Trotter (D)	✓	
Representative Michael Tryon (R)	✓	
VOTE to Motion	5	5

MOTION:

Murphy

2nd MOTION:

Schoenberg