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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
S.A. Godinez, Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Regarding the Closure of the Tamms Correctional Center

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2011 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Tamms Correctional Center and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Corrections (DOC) for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 3-7, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Tamms Correctional Center in Tamms, Illinois. A copy of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Corrections officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Tamms Correctional Center (LCC) 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 Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 22, 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 Tamms Correctional Center on April 2, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, IL.

The Tamms Correctional Center began operations in 1995 with a Minimum Security Unit and a C-Max (Super Max) facility was opened in 1998. Both parts of this facility house male inmates. The facility is rated at 200 inmates in the Minimum Security Unit and 500 inmates in the C-Max facility at capacity. Currently, the Minimum Security Unit has a population of 189 and the C-Max facility has a population of 186 as of March 2012.

DOC has laid out a plan for transferring inmates from Tamms to prisons throughout Illinois. The 186 C-Max inmates would be housed at the Pontiac and Menard Correctional Centers, both of which are maximum security institutions. The Department believes that these inmates can be housed in elevated-security wings that will be established to house these particular inmates. The 189 minimum security inmates will be distributed to other minimum security facilities throughout the system, and/or will be reviewed for possible electronic detention placement if they meet the criteria.

As of March 2012, 302 employees were located at the Tamms Correctional Center, according to the Department. DOC has suggested a plan of relocating all the employees to existing positions within the Department, including at existing facilities to assist in managing the additional workload from the proposed closure of the Tamms Correctional Facility. The Department has estimated that 594 positions would be available by August 31, 2012 at facilities throughout the state, with 118 positions within a 90 mile radius of the Tamms Correctional Center. Given the proposed closures of the Dwight Correctional Center and six Adult Transition Centers, this will result in 796 Department of Corrections staff impacted by layoff through the closing of the aforementioned centers.

The FY 2012 appropriation for Tamms Correctional Center is approximately \$26.3 million, with an expected savings (if closed effective August 31, 2012) of approximately \$21.6 million for FY 2013. DOC estimates that the inmates at Tamms would be moved to existing facilities at a one-time cost of approximately \$1.8 million. However, this does not take into account possible savings through electronic detention for low-level threat inmates, resulting in reduced populations throughout the system.

The Department has provided an economic analysis prepared by a team from the Regional Economics Laboratory at the University of Illinois of the proposed closure of the Tamms Correctional Center. According to the analysis, 295 employees working at Tamms (according to the U of I analysis) cause a total of 43 additional indirect and induced jobs within the surrounding community and area for a total of 338 jobs affected by the proposed closure. Many of the induced and indirect jobs are in a variety of support fields that employees of Tamms and their families would utilize, including retail, food service, etc. In addition, the University estimates that the state sales tax revenue produced by the facility is approximately \$219,503. The estimated income tax produced by the facility is approximately \$110,727. The analysis

notes that additional tax revenue through property taxes, licenses, etc. are not estimated, but would add to the total tax revenue for all units of government.

Commission members noted concerns with the closing of Tamms Correctional Center, including a need for a comprehensive plan for prison closures and consolidations. In addition, some members noted that various revenues from DCEO and gaming could be used to potentially offset some of the facility expenses. An additional option of exploring federal contracts for secure detention needs was voiced, which would allow a source of revenue for this and other state owned facilities that could be used for detention purposes.

Taking all these facts into consideration, the Commission members present voted 3-7 to reject the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Tamms Correctional Center.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

JMS/PRB
S328

**MOTION:
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF
TAMMS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

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

