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

**RE:** Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Regarding the Closure of the Westside Adult Transition Center

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Westside Adult Transition Center (Westside ATC) 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 5-5, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Westside Adult Transition Center in Chicago, Illinois. After rejecting the recommendation for closure, the Commission voted 10-0 to recommend the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) renegotiate the lease for the Westside ATC to lower the cost of rental for the State. Copies of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure, the motion to recommend that CMS renegotiate the lease for the facility, and the vote tallies are 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 Westside Adult Transition Center (LCC) on February 22, 2012. The Commission requested a recommendation for closure on March 1, 2012. The Department of Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 30, 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 Westside Adult Transition Center on April 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Michael A. Bilandic Building in Chicago, IL.

The Westside Adult Transition Center (ATC) opened in 1993 and has an operational capacity of 185 adult males according to DOC as of 11/30/2011. The inmate population at Westside is currently 189 as of March 2012. In total, 1,241 inmates are located in seven DOC transition centers across the state. ATC inmates normally have jobs in their communities and attend school along with receiving counseling and rehab services.

DOC has laid out a plan for closing the Westside ATC and five additional ATCs. The justification set forth by the Department in their recommendation to the Commission for this decision is that monthly lease costs and vendor fees can be cut without eliminating the opportunity for inmates to transition back into society. The Department intends to utilize an electronic home detention program to provide opportunities for reintegration into the community while costing DOC less than the costs of running the ATCs. According to DOC, electronic home detention averages \$5/day for an individual while ATC housing costs \$61.24/day.

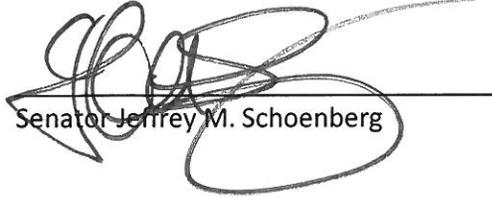
As of March 2012, 47 employees were located at the Westside Adult Transition Center, according to the Department. DOC has suggested a plan of relocating many of the employees to existing positions within the Department. The Department has estimated that 594 positions would be available by August 31, 2012 at facilities throughout the state. Given the proposed closures of the Westside Adult Transition Center, five additional Adult Transition Centers, and the Tamms and Dwight prisons, this will result in 796 Department of Corrections staff impacted by layoff through the closing of the aforementioned centers.

The annual operating cost for Westside Adult Transition Center is approximately \$4.4 million, with an expected FY 2013 savings (if closed effective August 31, 2012) of approximately \$3.2 million. DOC has not provided estimates regarding the specific costs of transferring inmates from Westside to existing prisons under their plan, but believes this cost to be "nominal."

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 Westside Adult Transition Center. According to the analysis, 49 employees working at Westside (according to the U of I analysis) cause a total of 37 additional indirect and induced jobs within the surrounding community and area for a total of 86 jobs affected by the proposed closure. Many of the induced and indirect jobs are in a variety of support fields that employees of Westside 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 \$100,567. The estimated income tax produced by the facility is approximately \$54,595. 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.

At the public hearings, the members took a dim view on the number of current ATC residents who would not qualify for electric detention after the ATC closures. A Department of Corrections witness estimated that over 50% of the current ATC residents would not be eligible for electronic detention. These residents would be sent back to prisons.

After hearing testimony from the Department of Corrections and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission members present voted 5-5 to reject the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Westside Adult Transition Center and 10-0 to recommend that CMS renegotiate the lease for the facility.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

JMS/PRB  
S331

**MOTION:  
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF  
WESTSIDE ADULT TRANSITION CENTER**

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

# MOTION / VOTE

## *Westside Adult Transition Center*

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

<i>Commission Member</i>	YES	NO
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)	✓	
<b>VOTE to Motion</b>	5	5

MOTION: Murphy

2<sup>nd</sup> MOTION: Syverson

**ALTERNATE MOTION:  
ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION FOR  
WESTSIDE ADULT TRANSITION CENTER**

After voting to reject the proposed closure of the **Westside Adult Transition Center** in Chicago, Illinois in accordance with the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability recommend that the Illinois Department of Central Management Services renegotiate the rental lease for the space used by the transition center at 100 North Western Avenue in Chicago, Illinois to enter into a more favorable lease and reduce the cost to the State of Illinois.

*Alternative Motion*

**MOTION / VOTE**

***Westside Adult Transition Center***

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

<i>Commission Member</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)	✓	
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)	✓	
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)	<b>VACANT</b>	
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)	✓	
<b>VOTE to Motion</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>

MOTION: Schoenberg

2<sup>nd</sup> MOTION: Schmidt