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State of Illinois
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January 11, 2010

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
Michael P. Randle, Director Illinois Department of Corrections

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Regarding the Closure of Jessie "Ma" Houston Adult Transition Center

The Commission met on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 2:00 pm to take final action on the proposed closure of Jessie "Ma" Houston Adult Transition Center, and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Corrections for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 9-3, accepted the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Jessie "Ma" Houston Adult Transition Center in Dixmoor, Illinois. A copy of the resolution 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 of the intent to close Jessie "Ma" Houston Adult Transition Center on September 8, 2009. The State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10) states that "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.”

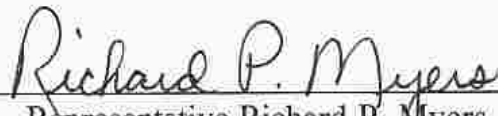
The Commission requested the required recommendation on September 11, 2009. The Department of Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on October 26, 2009. The State Facility Closure Act requires that the Commission conduct a public hearing regarding the closure of a prison no later than 35 days after the filing of the recommendation. The statutorily required public hearing was held on December 8, 2009 beginning at 3:30 pm at the Will County Fairgrounds, in Peotone, Illinois which is within 25 miles of the facility.

CONCLUSION

After several hours of extensive testimony on December 8, 2009 and a additional discussion on December 22, 2009, a majority (9) of the appointed members to the Commission on Government Forecasting voted to accept the Department of Corrections recommendation to close Jessie “Ma” Houston Adult Transition Center. The Commission thoroughly reviewed the documents submitted by the Department of Corrections, and documents from interest groups on both sides of the issue. In the final review, the overall cost of operating Jessie “Ma” Houston, coupled with the reported underutilization of the facility, figured largely in the final decision. Taking these important issues into consideration, the Commission believes that it is in the best interests of the State of Illinois to accept the recommendation for closure proposed by the Department of Corrections.



Senator Jeffrey M Schoenberg
CGFA Co-Chairman



Representative Richard P. Myers
CGFA Co-Chairman

JMS/RPM:dkb

S184 CGFA Advisory Opinion Jessie “Ma” Houston

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF THE
JESSIE “MA” HOUSTON ADULT TRANSITION CENTER**

Pursuant to the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), after hearing testimony regarding the proposed closure of the Jessie “Ma” Houston Adult Transition Center in Dixmoor, Illinois, I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability accept the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Corrections regarding the Jessie “Ma” Houston Adult Transition Center. Furthermore, the Commission shall formally file the advisory opinion to accept the recommendation for closure with the Department of Corrections, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Index Department of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Motion: Senator Dave Syverson

Motion Second: Representative Elaine Nekritz

Roll Call: 9-3

COMMISSION VOTE: MOTION

Jessie "Ma" Houston Transition Center

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Sterling High School Auditorium, Sterling, IL 61081

| <i>Commission Member</i> | <i>YES</i> | <i>NO</i> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Representative Patricia Bellock (R) | X | |
| Senator Bill Brady (R) | X | |
| Senator Michael Frerichs (D) | X | |
| Representative McCarthy (D) | | X |
| Senator Murphy (R) | X | |
| Representative Richard Myers (R) | X | |
| Representative Elaine Nekritz (D) <i>2nd</i> | X | |
| Representative Raymond Poe (R) | X | |
| Representative Riley (D) | | X |
| Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D) | X | |
| Senator David Syverson (R) <i>MOTION</i> | X | |
| Senator Donne Trotter (D) | | X |

9 - 3