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May 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Bruce Rauner, 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 Jim Durkin, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State
Candice Jones, Director, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

FROM: Senator Donne Trotter, CGFA Co-Chairman
Representative Donald Moffitt, CGFA Co-Chairman

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

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (“the Commission”) met on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. to take final action on the proposed closure of the Illinois Youth Center in Kewanee, Illinois and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (“the Department” or “IDJJ”) for that facility. A quorum was present and a **motion to accept the recommendation** for closure by the Department of Juvenile Justice for the Illinois Youth Center in Kewanee, Illinois **failed on a vote of 5 yes and 6 no.** A copy of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

Background

The Department officially notified the Commission of the intent to close the Illinois Youth Center in Kewanee on February 12, 2016. 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 February 17, 2016. The Department submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 18, 2016. 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 youth center on March 30, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at Kewanee High School in Kewanee, IL.

In the recommendation for closure, the Department indicated that they were looking to reduce the number of facilities in the Juvenile Justice system due to a significant decline in the department's youth population. At the time of the writing of the recommendation, there were 418 youth in the system. This compares to a level of 739 one year prior, and 1,207, five years prior. After the closure of the Kewanee facility, the Department would still have 683 beds in its five remaining facilities.

During the public hearings, the Department indicated that another reason for closing the Kewanee facility was a transition within the Department from an institutional model to a community-based model. A community-based model for handling youth offenders strives to provide help to the youth nearer their own communities and not use larger facilities farther from their own neighborhoods. The department testified that only about 10% of the total IDJJ population, or approximately 40 residents, were from the 18 county region surrounding Kewanee.

While Commission members were open to the idea that the Department needed to downsize the number of beds in the system and transition to a more community-based model, the Commission members were concerned with the mothballing of one of the newer facilities within the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections. Local elected officials pointed to the fact that even though this is one of the newer facilities within the State, no plan, beyond deeming the facility excess property for appropriate handling by Illinois Central Management Services, was offered. One member of the Commission mentioned how a previously closed State facility in his district currently sits empty with no plan for re-use or remediation of the facility three years after closing.

Commission members also expressed concern about the financial impacts of the closure both at the local level and at the state level. The economic impact study submitted with the recommendation for closure indicated that as many as 218 jobs would be lost in the local community. These jobs contributed \$20.9 million in wages and salaries and just over \$27.6 million in production.

In addition to this large impact on the local economy, opponents of the closure noted that the Kewanee facility had the second lowest cost per youth housed at current levels and would be the lowest cost if IYC-Kewanee was run at full capacity. It was also pointed out that the State owns the Kewanee facility, while the State pays approximately \$1.4 million per year to lease the IYC-Chicago facility.

Members of the Commission and several local elected office holders had shown interest in transitioning the Kewanee facility to the Department of Corrections system. Particular interest was shown in converting the Kewanee facility into a hospice facility with the Department of Corrections. Unfortunately, the Department of Corrections was unavailable to provide any information on the potential for this kind of transition.

Vote

After touring the facility, hearing testimony from the Department of Juvenile Justice and numerous other individuals and organizations, and reviewing written testimony, a **motion to accept** the Department of Juvenile Justice's recommendation to close the Illinois Youth Center in Kewanee, Illinois **failed on a vote of 5 yes and 6 no.**



Senator Donne Trotter



Representative Donald Moffitt

DT/DM:dkb

S488 CGFA Advisory Opinion Kewanee IYC

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

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

MOTION / VOTE

Illinois Youth Center - Kewanee

FACILITY CLOSURE HEARING - VOTE

May 3, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. - Room C-1, Stratton Ofc. Bldg.

	V O T E		
	YES	NO	Present
Senator Pamela Althoff (R)	✓		
Representative Kelly Burke (D)		✓	
Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer (R)		✓	
Senator David Koehler (D)		✓	
Representative Donald Moffitt (R) CO-CHAIR		✓	
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓		
Representative Al Riley (D)	—	—	—
Senator Chapin Rose (R)		✓	
Senator Heather Steans (D)	✓		
Senator Dave Syverson (R)	✓		
Senator Donne Trotter (D) CO-CHAIR	✓		
Representative Michael Unes (R)		✓	
VOTE	5	6	

MOTION TO CLOSE: Trotter 2nd MOTION: Nekritz
 ATTENDING: Rep. Smiddy, Rep. Leitch
 Senator Anderson, Weaver