



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

JAMES J. BLANCHARD  
GOVERNOR

April 23, 1987

Honorable Coleman A. Young  
Mayor of City of Detroit  
City-County Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mayor Young:

This letter will confirm arrangements which you and I have been discussing since the turn of the year; the arrest of 1,000 youthful offenders and arrangements for their incarceration.

As you know, I fully support this measure. I know that you and the Detroit Police department are counting on the state to provide adequate space for convicted young offenders.

I hope that this letter will give you the kind of assurance you need to finalize the cooperative effort we are seeking between the city, the county, the police, the prosecutor, the courts, the schools and the various agencies of the state of Michigan.

In order to achieve our goals, it will be necessary for the County to provide pre-trial detention, prosecution and trial or other disposition of those arrested. For those who are convicted and sentenced to incarceration, it will be the state's job to provide the cells.

I am prepared to go to the State Legislature immediately with a detailed emergency plan to provide the facilities to lock up convicted youthful offenders - both juveniles and young adults.

This plan is largely the product of the discussions which we have had since late last year, and representatives of our respective administrations have been conducting since February, as well as agreements between the Wayne County Probate Court and my administration, reached in 1986.

The goals of the plan are:

- 1.) State removal of all convicted ("adjudicated") juvenile offenders from the Wayne County Youth Home, within 72 hours of presentation, so that the Youth Home can be entirely devoted to pre-trial detention of juveniles accused of serious crimes. We are close to attaining this goal already.
- 2.) State construction, leasing and contracting of licensed facilities capable of holding approximately 500 more convicted juvenile offenders than our capacity on January 1, including nearly 300 spaces at work and learn camps. This is described in detail in the attachment.
- 3.) Dedication of up to 300 cells in the State's adult correctional system to housing youthful offenders convicted of felonies in Recorders or Circuit Courts.

*improves*

*300*

*in the Crime Criminal package - will be committed into waiver for violent crimes*

Based on experience, incarceration of 800 persons is a liberal estimate for arrest of 1000. It assumes prosecution, conviction and sentencing to incarceration of 80% of those arrested. It is well above the normal rate, but even if 100% are convicted and sentenced, we will find room for them.

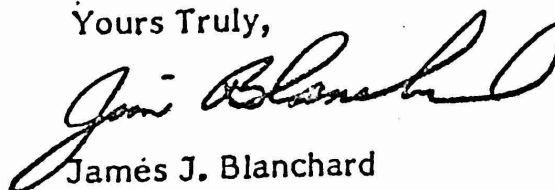
Implementation of this plan, over the next eighteen months, will require increased state capital outlay of at least \$8 million and increased operating expenditures of approximately \$20 million. I am prepared to support these expenditures to combat crime.

Furthermore, my administration is prepared to take (or has already taken) the following measures to strengthen law enforcement in Wayne County:

- 1.) I have requested the Department of Corrections to work intensively with representatives of Wayne County Executive McNamara and Sheriff Ficano to expedite the rapid expansion of County jail capacity. The County's proposals will be on the State Corrections Commission agenda beginning tonight, April 23. If necessary, I will ask the Commission to schedule a further, special meeting.
- 2.) I have opposed and will continue to oppose any state pre-emption of the City's legal authority to enact a handgun ordinance. I want this tool to be available, should City authorities conclude that such an ordinance would assist in getting and keeping guns out of schools.
- 3.) I renew the offer, first made by my legal advisor to superintendent Jefferson in 1986, to render whatever state assistance is necessary and lawful to keep guns out of schools, including metal detectors.
- 4.) I will request the state legislative leadership to expedite enactment of laws to combat juvenile crime. Specifically, I will urge rapid enactment of laws:
  - authorizing mandatory trial as an adult of juveniles accused of a second serious assaultive crime, embodied in the House Bill sponsored by Representative Teola Hunter last session.
  - authorizing law enforcement agencies to communicate with each other essential information on juveniles so that any arrested youthful offender's identity and record can be verified.
  - increasing the jurisdiction of Social Services to hold a convicted juvenile offender to age 21, so that dangerous juveniles do not automatically return to the streets at age 19.
- 5.) We have already added 3,000 cells to the adult correctional system in 1985, 2,500 in 1986, and a further 2,300 are scheduled for completion in 1987.

Finally, I know that we agree that law enforcement alone cannot control all of society's problems which lead to crime. Young people need jobs and hope. Michigan's economic redevelopment must not leave anyone behind. My Youth Corps summer jobs program will offer jobs to all young persons between eighteen and twenty-one years of age. We must also focus on early intervention, to turn the youngest offenders away from crime.

Yours Truly,



James J. Blanchard  
Governor