

part of 5.



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

September 13, 2011

Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr.
Office of the Sheriff
Safety Building, Room 107

Dear Sheriff Clarke:

Thank you for copying me on the letters you sent to County Executive Chris Abele and Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers regarding your intent to relocate the Huber program housing from the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) to the House of Correction. I agree that locating the Huber detainees in the CJF was intended to be a temporary solution to the closing of the Community Correctional Center, and I also agree that a permanent solution is necessary.

However, we both know that housing Huber detainees at the outer edges of the County without any provision for transporting those inmates back to the center of the city does a disservice to that population. By moving those detainees to Franklin, you are making it much more likely that they will be unable to meet the terms of their court-ordered Huber programming, and employed inmates would run the risk of losing their jobs. In short, you would be setting them up to fail. I don't see how that serves the interest of taxpayers. If you insist on not providing transportation solutions for Huber detainees, we will find a transportation solution and transfer funding from your budget to cover the expense.

We are in agreement that a permanent facility is needed. I've instructed my staff to work with your office and the Department of Administrative Services to renew efforts to develop options for locating a new Huber work release center. We share this goal, and I am confident that we can work collaboratively to resolve these Huber housing issues.

Sincerely,

Lee Holloway
Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele
Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers

County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

July 19, 2011

Chris Abele, County Executive
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Room 306
Milwaukee, WI 53223

Dear County Executive Abele:

In the fourth quarter of 2008, Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz, the National Institute of Corrections consultant to the former House of Correction, recommended to the County Executive that the Huber facility known as the Community Correctional Center (CCC) should be closed down. The recommendation was based on the facility structure being inappropriate for a Huber facility and the dilapidated conditions of the building. Dr. Schwartz recommended that a new Huber facility be constructed that would meet the appropriate standards for the level of security required for the housing of Huber inmates.

On January 1, 2009, when Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. took over the House of Correction, including the CCC Huber facility, the CCC was permanently closed and the active Huber inmates were placed in what was originally designed to be temporary housing in the Milwaukee County Jail, (also known as the County Correctional Facility-Central).

The County Board ordered the formation of a committee to study and recommend solutions to replace the Huber facility, to result in the County Correctional Facility-Central getting back the needed space to house 250 high security inmates, who currently are housed at the County Correctional Facility South (CCF-South). The following was included in the County Executive's 2009 approved budget:

A work group consisting of staff from DAS, the Sheriff's Office, the Courts, and County Board staff will be convened by DAS in January 2009 to develop options for locating a new Huber work release center, either on the existing site or a new location, and will submit recommendations to the Sheriff, the County Executive, the Community Justice Council, and the County Board by July 1, 2009.

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County Executive Chris Abele

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The temporary location has been in place for 30 months without any known progress being made on determining a new and proper secure permanent facility for the Huber program.

Based on the significant number of pre-trial felons being housed at the CCF-South, it is imperative that there be a sense of urgency regarding a new Huber facility, which would result in the removal of the Huber inmates from the maximum-security facility. The CCF-Central is the most expensive and secure facility that I oversee. In short order, I intend to move the Huber inmates to the CCF-South in Franklin, and move the most dangerous felons from CCF-South to CCF-Central. This will result in an efficient utilization of the maximum-security space, and provide the best option for public safety.

The unintended consequence is the increased travel time that Huber inmates will have to their jobs and court-ordered appointments. There are few bus routes that are easily accessible to the CCF-South, and this will increase the need for the Huber inmates to find appropriate transportation. However, my highest priority is public safety, and moving the most dangerous inmates to the CCF-Central maximum-security facility is the right thing to do. My intention is to relocate the Huber site to the CCF-South facility on December 1, 2011.

I look to the leadership of the Milwaukee County Board to expedite the long-awaited recommendation on the new Huber facility. Several of my staff members have expertise in corrections and correctional facilities and would provide beneficial assistance in expediting the plans for an appropriate Huber facility. I will demonstrate my willingness to assist the process by assigning these individuals as needed to the planning and execution committee. What I request in return is that the County Board follow-through to make the recommendations a reality. This will result in enhanced public safety by keeping the most serious offenders in the maximum security CCF-Central, and placing Huber inmates in an appropriate Wisconsin Department of Corrections approved housing facility.

Please contact Inspector Richard Schmidt for further discussion at 278-4342.

Sincerely,



David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff
Milwaukee County

c: Lee Holloway, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Patricia Jursik, Supervisor, Chairman Planning Committee



County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

August 16, 2011

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Kremers
Chief Judge First Judicial District
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 609
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Judge Kremers:

Enclosed is a letter I sent to newly elected County Executive Chris Abele to bring to his attention an issue that had been left over from the last administration. My intent was also to renew a sense of urgency within the County Board of Supervisors about this issue, which has obviously become dormant: that being a proper, secure permanent site for the Huber program. All involved parties are aware that its location in the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) was a temporary site. "Temporary" has turned into 31 months with no action.

The letter indicates my intention to relocate the Huber program housing from its temporary location inside the County Correctional Facility-Central (CCF-C) in downtown Milwaukee to the County Correctional Facility-South (CCF-S) on December 1, 2011, for safety and security reasons. A recent heroin overdose by a returning Huber inmate that occurred in a public bathroom in the lobby of the CJF served as a reminder to me that it is past time for a permanent solution.

This change will require inmates placed on the Huber program to make different transportation arrangements to get from the CCF-S to wherever they need to be. This is the responsibility of the inmate, not the taxpayer. Overcoming obstacles is a virtue which many inmates don't possess, and which our cradle-to-grave society doesn't demand of them. People are resourceful when they want to be and have to be, and learning to overcome obstacles will serve inmates well down the road. All of us have to be, and I would ask why we don't require it of this population. They can, and should, reach out to family, friends, and work associates for their transportation needs, not to county government or the sheriff. After all, they put themselves in their situation of confinement. I have to ask, who was providing transportation for them before they were arrested?

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The Honorable Jeffrey A. Kremers
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On September 1, 2011, we will begin to notify those currently in the Huber program of the location change and that they will have to make transportation adjustments starting December 1, 2011. This is more than enough time for them to make arrangements. I have already received a plan to accomplish the changeover from my Detention Services Bureau.

I am requesting that when a decision is made to place someone on Huber that they be notified that they are responsible for transportation arrangements to and from the CCF-S.

Sincerely,


David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff
Milwaukee County

Enc.

