

~~FOR SUPPORT~~

FOR SUPPORT OF THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL

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TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEES,

IN FAVOR OF THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL

GREETINGS SIRS AND MA'AMS:

I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE I HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND FOR 32 YEARS NOW. I HAVE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF MY TIME HERE AT (J.C.I.) JESSUP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION; FORMERLY KNOWN AS ~~JESSUP~~ ~~JESSUP~~ MC I-ANNEX (MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION-ANNEX) THIS PLACE (INSTITUTION) HAS HAD IT'S DIFFICULT TIMES. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS WHILE EXPLAINING MY SUPPORT FOR THE UPCOMING CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN BILL.

I ARRIVED HERE AT THE THEL (ANNEX) J.C.I. IN MARCH OF 1993. THERE IS AND HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT ISSUE WITH THE REGARDS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROCESS. THAT BEING AN ISSUE, YOU CAN NOT RELY ON ANY ENTITY OR AGENCY TO INVESTIGATE ITSELF. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (D.P.S.C.S.) IS NO DIFFERENT. THERE HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF GETTING PROPER RESPONSES TO ~~THE~~ A.R.P.'S WHEN FILED WITHIN INDIVIDUAL PRISONS. THERE IS AN UNFORTUNATE LONG HISTORY IN THIS STATE IN ITS PRISONS CONNECTING TO MAJOR DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY THE POPULATIONS INABILITY TO HAVE THEIR ISSUES PROPERLY HEARD AND ADDRESSED BY THE ADMINISTRATIONS DUE TO THE A.R.P. COORDINATORS HAVING RUN INTERFERENCE RATHER THAN SEEKING APPROPRIATE RELIEF. HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?



It begins with inordinate delays that violate procedures, granting extensions to the Administration as a rule without necessity that extends beyond procedural time-lines, failure to properly investigate alleged misconduct and or allegations. There have been many instances where men have been directly or indirectly threatened as a consequence of filing a remedy not to mention the many instances where men have been subject to retaliatory actions including but not limited to shakedowns, being placed on Administrative Segregation, or even <sup>inconvenienced by</sup> being transferred to other Institutions. The frustration of living under these types of environments has led to violent out-breaks toward self, others and sometimes staff.

Having an outside source of either (oversight or accountability) would absolutely change the over-all circumstance, such as those reference here earlier. When it is known and understood that there is no longer a space for arbitrary or capricious responses to properly filed Institutional complaints, there will be an immediate change in the processes as they occur in the prisons.

Where outside complaints are concerned, you will find that more often than not the individual complainant received a more appropriate response to their complaint. Primarily due to the Administration fearing higher authority being made aware of the situation. Outside complaints are usually directed to either a Commissioner or even the Secretary's office. This actually highlights the point of an outside oversight having a direct effect on a particular situation

Thank you in advance for your time ~~and~~ <sup>in</sup> this long standing concern.

With Respect.