



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 7-2006

June 21, 2006

TO: SHERIFFS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, NEW YORK CITY WARDENS, CHIEFS OF POLICE, SUPERINTENDENTS OF STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

RE: Appointment of Alan Croce as Commissioner of the New York State Board of Parole

After ten years of service (the full term allowed by law), as Chairman/Commissioner of the State Commission of Correction, having been appointed and confirmed three times by Governor Pataki and the New York State Senate, I am proud to announce that Governor Pataki has nominated me, and the Senate has confirmed my nomination, for a term as a Commissioner of the New York State Board of Parole. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this governor for his confidence in me and for providing me such superb opportunities to serve in his administration, which includes my continued service as an appointed member of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. I am pleased to also continue my service as President of the New York Correction History Society.

During these ten years we have brought corrections, in particular the local correctional establishment, and the State Commission of Correction itself into the 21st Century. This was accomplished through a persistent determination to facilitate replacement of obsolete, overcrowded and unsafe local correctional facilities in order to keep pace with community growth and our public safety needs, accelerated professionalization of both our local correctional officer corps and the staff of the Commission, both in numbers and quality, and consistent, fair executive oversight as a guarantor of a safe, stable and humane correctional system for staff, inmates and the public.

During my tenure at the Commission, the agency has worked closely with more than 30 counties to modernize, expand and replace aging and inadequate jail facilities. By 2007, Commission-facilitated projects completed or already underway during my administration will have added more than 6,700 new jail beds, all of them of the most modern, safe and efficient design, all badly needed to support the public safety infrastructure of New York State. The local correctional establishment has become a better place to work and of better service to the public because of this facilities development.

When I assumed leadership of the Commission, the agency was staffed largely by appointees, many of whom had little or no background in professional corrections. We immediately embarked on an intensive plan to professionalize our workforce, implementing an employment system in the permanent, professional civil service with recruitment from the statewide pool of correctional professionals, merit testing, rigorous minimum qualifications and annual training in field inspection and investigation. Simultaneously, the agency began a complete redevelopment of the agency's mandatory Basic Training from a rudimentary two-week program to

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an expanded four-week program with integrated peace officer training. The Commission also reviewed its staffing requirements for county correctional facilities throughout the state, many of which had not been reviewed for fifteen years. The Commission successfully fought throughout the state for adequate minimum staffing in county correctional facilities. The quality and availability of county correction officers continues to improve, providing for a safe, more stable system and enhanced public safety.

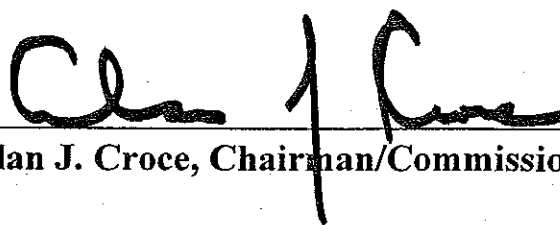
There were many other initiatives, including statewide juvenile justice standards, new concepts for special housing, expanded options for due process discipline, incorporation of community standards of health care, and others, but our emphasis was always based upon pride in our collective profession and an enduring desire to improve it.

I want to personally thank all present and past Sheriffs for their cooperation and expertise in developing professional correctional policies. I also want to personally thank Commissioner Glenn Goord of the New York State Department of Correctional Services for contributing greatly to the ethics, professionalism and efficiency of running that vast and vitally important department, Commissioner Martin Horn of the New York City Department of Correction and Commissioner Rocco Pozzi of the Westchester County Department of Correction for their unsurpassed professionalism and knowledge of the operations of large correctional systems.

My appreciation also goes to every commissioner of public safety and chief of police for their patience and cooperation in operating detention facilities and lockups under the Commission's oversight.

And lastly, I want to thank the New York State Sheriffs' Association for its continuing cooperation with the New York State Commission of Correction.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the staff of the New York State Commission of Correction which I believe is the best and most knowledgeable group of corrections professionals in the nation.



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