



COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

I want to report on our efforts to be a good neighbor in Astoria. An informal Rikers Island Task Force has been formed to hear and deal with concerns expressed by residents. It meets every five or six weeks in my Rikers conference room. Special Counsel John J. Meglio presides.

Typically attending are representatives from DOC, DOT, Queens Borough President, Community Bd. 1, Council Speaker Vallone, 114th Pct., Office of the Mayor, Astoria Heights Association, Assemblyman Denis J. Butler, State Sen. George Onorato and LaGuardia Airport management.

One recent agenda item has been plans for an Automatic Teller Machine in the Rikers Control Building for use by staff. A request for submission of bids is being drafted. We hope convenient ATM access will relieve traffic congestion that has concerned our neighbors.

We also are investigating the possibility of having a Rikers check cashing service on pay days. It appears that such a firm already serving the city in several areas might be willing to extend its contract to cover Rikers on pay days. We have requested approval of this idea from the appropriate office and are awaiting a response.

On a matter of perennial interest, we shared with the Task Force the findings by city-retained consultants who recently completed a study on possibly reviving Rikers ferry service. They found capital cost and operating expenses would far exceed any potential benefit.

The Task Force has ongoing discussions concerning traffic conditions. For example, the community objected to a traffic sign permitting right turns on red signals at Ditmars Blvd. and 81st St. This sign was recently re-

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moved. Wherever possible, we try to alleviate the Rikers traffic impact. A question arose concerning possible roadway development from the GCP to Rikers across a non-runway part of the airport. Though this idea has been much discussed over the years, we are again looking into it because we are willing to consider all ideas to improve Rikers traffic conditions.

The community has voiced some discontent concerning drop-off points for work release and other inmates leaving Rikers. We have taken corrective action on this and reported those steps at a recent Task Force meeting.

While Correction as an agency actively strives to be a good neighbor in the community through the Task Force and by other means, ultimately the role of the individual employee is most important.

Our neighbors, as taxpayers, are also our employers. The residents have a right to expect courtesy, consideration and common decency from their civil servants. This is true in Astoria near Rikers; indeed, in any community adjacent to any of our facilities throughout the city.

I believe most members of the Department conduct themselves in adjacent areas with the proper decorum appropriate to the public service they have sworn to provide. They need no reminders that staff behavior must not be detrimental to the interests of the Department in maintaining good relations with the community.

We will not allow misconduct by a few to bring disrepute to the vast majority of our members. We will not let them undermine DOC efforts to be a good neighbor to all our adjacent communities throughout the city.

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5 New Wardens

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ments at North Facility and CIFM. After promotion to ADW in 1987, he served at HDM and the Women's House of Detention. ADW since 1991, he saw duty aboard the MTF Bibby Venture and at BkHDM and NIC before being posted to SOD in early 1994.

Warden Stankovic earned a degree from Kingsborough Community College in 1969. He lives on Long Island.

Reginald Thomas

Warden Thomas joined Correction in 1973 as a CO and saw service at CIFM, BxHDM, R.I. Hospital and AIU. After advancement to Captain in 1982, he served at ARDC and MHDM.

Appointed ADW in 1985, he carried out assignments at AMKC and Central Office Management Evaluation. In 1989 as Programs DW, he served aboard MTF Bibby Venture and then in the same role at GMDC. From August 1990 to last month, he was the latter's Security DW.

Warden Thomas has earned a B.S. in Human Services from Empire state college, the degree will be awarded this month. He also has degrees and certificates from Security Management Institute, John Jay College, American Management Association, Dale Carnegie Institute and Smith and Wesson Academy. The Brooklynite is both a professional photographer and a competitive marksman.

'10-13' Event Jan. 26 for ARDC CO's Daughter

A benefit entitled "10-13 for Shakeema Barksdale" will be held Thursday, Jan. 26, from 5 PM at the Elks Lodge, 82-10 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, to raise funds for ARDC CO Darlene Barksdale's 12-year-old daughter of battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Proceeds will help defray medical expenses. Tickets are \$10 each; food and drink extra. To join DOC-wide committee, contact CO Tim Dillon at (xxx)xxx-xxxx