

March 12, 2010

Ms. Pam Ulrich, County Administrator
Harrison County Board of Supervisors
1801 23rd Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39502

Re: Mississippi Security Police Service Agreement-Juvenile Detention Center

Dear Pam:

The Service Agreement between Mississippi Security Police and Harrison County is up for renewal as the current contract expires on March 31, 2010. For the reasons outlined below, MSP respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors renew the contract so that we can continue to provide this service at the Harrison County Juvenile Detention Center.

MSP is requesting this to be scheduled for the first Board Meeting in April; Monday April 5, 2010.

As you are aware, the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a suit in Federal Court in April of 2009 regarding conditions at the Harrison County Juvenile Detention Center. Although many of the allegations were without merit, a thorough review revealed areas which were ripe for improvement. Working together with Sheila Bedi, Attorney for SPLC, Board Attorney Tim Holleman, and Wynn Clark, we reached a Settlement Agreement on August 10, 2009.

We then set about implementing the agreed upon changes under the Settlement Agreement. MSP spent hundreds of hours before, during and following the agreement to implement these changes. As a result, our company has undergone a complete transformation both in management style and philosophy regarding the management of juveniles at the Juvenile Detention Center. Other facilities that have experienced similar transformations advised MSP that some staff personnel would not be able to meet our new requirements. This proved to be correct. As a company, MSP has partnered with SPLC to work together for the good of all parties, the juveniles, Harrison County and the community. This transformation remains a work in progress in which we continue to work toward our goal of making the Juvenile Detention Center a model facility.

In addition, we have also made significant progress in other areas:

- (1) Employment of a Professional Consultant;
- (2) Employment of a Professional Grant Writer;

- (3) \$10,000.00 has been set aside as part of the settlement agreement;
- (4) Budgeted \$5,000.00 annually for purchases of sanctions for the juveniles;
- ~~(7)~~⁵ Networked with the Model Detention Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana. ;

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- ~~(8)~~⁶ Purchased all new uniforms for officers and residents;
- ~~(9)~~⁷ MSP now receives requests from other Detention Centers for their officials to visit our facility.

In view of the additional outlay of costs for the beneficial changes and improvements outlined above, we respectfully request a 3% increase in our budget for the renewal agreement. If this increase is approved, MSP is willing to enter into a 2 or 3 year contract for the same annual amount.

Additionally, I have enclosed a list of other significant improvements in the Juvenile Detention Center through this date.

Mississippi Security Police has enjoyed the good working relationship with Harrison County and we appreciate the trust and confidence placed in us by the Board of Supervisors. MSP pledges to continue to make improvements with a high level of dedication and professionalism.

If we may provide additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tony Best