



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 22, 1996

Mr. Gregory I. Snook
President
Board of County Commissioners
of Washington County, Maryland
100 West Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Re: Washington County Detention Center

Dear Mr. Snook:

I am writing to inform you that the United States Department of Justice intends to investigate conditions at the Washington County Detention Center, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1977 et seq.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether conditions in the Detention Center violate the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on suicide prevention, but will also cover allegations of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions; inadequate medical care, nutrition, and opportunities for exercise; lack of access to the courts resulting from an inadequate law library; physical and verbal abuse by staff; and failure to respond to inmate grievances. In initiating this investigation, we have not prejudged that the facility violates inmates' constitutional rights. If we do find any violations, we will confer with you and your staff about appropriate corrective action.

We will endeavor to coordinate this investigation with relevant officials in Washington County. We will be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our investigation. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions on this matter. The attorney assigned to the case is Margo Schlanger, at (202) 616-8657.

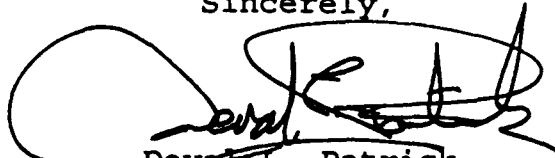
CRIPA Investigation



JC-MD-002-002

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deval L. Patrick', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Lynne Battaglia, Esquire
United States Attorney
District of Maryland

Richard Douglas, Esquire
County Attorney

Mr. Charles F. Mades
Washington County Sheriff

Lieutenant Van Evans
Warden, Washington County Detention Center