



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

May 1, 1996

Mr. John S. Ricci
County Administrator
McDade Administration Building
P.O. Box 8060
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

Re: CRIPA Investigation of Mercer County Detention Center

Dear Mr. Ricci:

I am writing to inform you that the United States Department of Justice intends to investigate conditions at the Mercer County Detention Center pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether conditions at the jail violate the constitutional rights of inmates. The investigation will focus on, but may not be limited to, allegations we have received regarding inadequate medical care, including mental health care, environmental health and safety, and an unacceptably high risk of violence.

The initiation of this investigation does not evidence any prejudice on our part that constitutional rights have been violated. Additionally, if any violations are found, we intend to confer with you and your staff concerning any appropriate corrective action.

We would like to initiate this investigation as soon as possible. Attorneys from my office will contact your staff within the next week to arrange for a production of documents relevant to the issues described above, and a subsequent inspection of the jail by attorneys from, and expert consultants retained by, the Civil Rights Division. The attorney responsible for this matter is Christy López of the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division, who can be reached at (202) 616-3197.

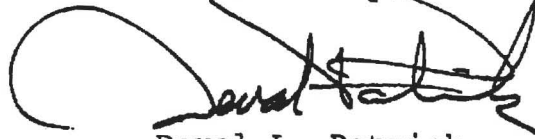
CRIPA Investigation



JC-NJ-002-001

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Mr. Patrick McManimon
Superintendent
Mercer County Detention Center

Sheriff Samuel J. Plumuri
Mercer County Detention Center

Mr. Robert Prunetti
County Executive

Alfred Vuocolo, Esquire
County Counsel

Faith S. Hochberg, Esquire
United States Attorney
State of New Jersey