



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

CRIPA Investigation



JI-MI-001-001

MAR 21 1994

Mr. Edward H. McNamara
Wayne County Executive
600 Randolph St., Suite 300
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Re: Investigation of Wayne County Youth Home
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. McNamara:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Wayne County Youth Home, a juvenile detention facility in Detroit, Michigan. This investigation is authorized by, and will be conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether there exist any violations of the federal constitutional or statutory rights of juveniles housed at this facility. The investigation will focus on, but not be limited to allegations related to: physical and psychological abuse of residents; failure to properly investigate and curtail sexual abuse of residents by staff; improper disciplinary practices; inadequate staffing and supervision; inadequate medical care, mental health care, and suicide prevention measures; environmental health and safety deficiencies; lack of classification; overcrowding; inadequate access to telephones, mail, general reading material and legal books; and inadequate educational services.

The initiation of this investigation in no way constitutes any prejudgment on our part that the federal rights of Wayne County Youth Home juveniles have been violated. If any violations are found, we will confer with you and your staff concerning corrective actions that might be appropriate.

We would like to initiate this investigation as soon as possible. In that regard, staff attorneys from my office will contact your staff within the next week to arrange a meeting between our attorneys and representatives of your office, followed by a tour of the Wayne County Youth Home by our

consultants and personnel from the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Jennifer Granholm, Esq.
Corporation Counsel, Wayne County

Mr. Ronald Lockett
Director, Wayne County Youth Home

Mr. Robert Ficano
Sheriff, Wayne County

Saul Green, Esq.
United States Attorney
Eastern District
State of Michigan