



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

May 7, 1996

The Honorable George Allen
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: CRIPA Investigation of Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center

Dear Governor Allen:

I am writing to inform you that the United States Department of Justice intends to investigate conditions at the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional 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 correctional center violate the constitutional rights of juvenile inmates. The investigation will focus on, but may not be limited to, allegations we have received regarding physical and mental abuse of juveniles by staff, the improper use of isolation and segregation, an unacceptably high risk of violence in the correctional center, and inadequate medical and mental health care.

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 correctional center 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.

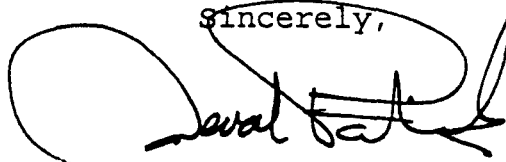
CRIPA Investigation, Powhatan (VA)



Jl-VA-0001-0001

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. George Wakefield
Superintendent
Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center

Ms. Patricia L. West
Director, Virginia Department of
Youth and Family Services

The Honorable James S. Gilmore
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Virginia

Helen F. Fahey, Esquire
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia