



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the
County Comptroller

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August 26, 2009

Ms. Jacqueline DeNero
Director Juvenile Justice/Detention Services
Hillbrook Detention Facility
4949 Velasko Road
Syracuse, New York 13215

Dear Ms. DeNero:

As you know, New York State has recently received a report issued by the US Department of Justice as it relates to state run detention facilities for children. I was concerned with our detention facility and visited your facility on today's date.

While my visit was a surprise, I was greeted with courteousness and given a tour of the facility.

While by no means was my visit to your facility as comprehensive as would be conducted by the Justice Department, I wanted to satisfy myself the children in our care were receiving adequate supervision and treatment. As we took our tour, you indicated the facility was currently responsible for ten individuals. During the course of my visit I personally met seven residents who appeared to be in good health and free from any visible injuries.

Further you advised me of training our employees are receiving relative to conflict mediation. You also advised some of your staff has received approval from certain programs offered by Cornell University, all with the intent of preventing the problems identified in the Justice Department report.

Finally, the facility was in good repair, neat and clean. All staff encountered were cordial and professional.

Based on my visit there appears no reason necessary to pursue further inquiry on this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA

REA/nlc

CC: Joanne M. Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive
Al Giacchi, Commissioner, Probation Department
Richard Lesniak, Chair, Public Safety Committee