



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 3 1993

CRIPA Investigation

REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



JI-MS-001-001

Mr. Robert Eleuterius  
President  
Harrison County Board of Supervisors  
1801 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39502

Re: Investigation of the Harrison County Youth  
Detention Center in Gulfport, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Eleuterius:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Harrison County Youth Detention Center ("HCYDC") in Gulfport, Mississippi. The investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997-1997j (1982).

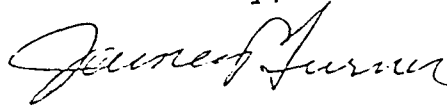
The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether HCYDC violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) an unsafe environment due to physical abuse of juveniles by detention officers, (2) lack of supervision by detention officers, (3) conditions of confinement, (4) inadequate medical and mental health services, and (5) inadequate educational services. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment that HCYDC violates its inmates' constitutional rights. If any violations are found, however, we will confer with you and your staff concerning appropriate corrective actions.

As a means of commencing this investigation, we wish to arrange for our attorneys, consultants, and perhaps agents of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit and tour HCYDC. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our initial investigation.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Robert A. Payne, Esquire  
Harrison County Attorney

Mr. Rick Gaston  
Warden  
Harrison County Jail  
& Youth Detention Center

Mr. Joe Price  
Harrison County Sheriff

George L. Phillips, Esquire  
United States Attorney  
State of Mississippi  
Southern District