

August 7, 2006

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Investigation of the Baltimore City Juvenile  
Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

I am writing to report the findings of the Civil Rights Division's investigation of conditions and practices at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (the "Justice Center"), in Baltimore, Maryland. On June 30, 2005, we notified you of our intent to conduct an investigation of the Justice Center pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act ("CRIPA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1997, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141 ("Section 14141"). CRIPA and Section 14141 give the Department of Justice authority to seek remedies for any pattern or practice of conduct that violates the constitutional or federal statutory rights of children in juvenile justice institutions.

In September and October 2005, we conducted on-site inspections of the Justice Center with expert consultants in various disciplines. Before, during, and after our site visits, we reviewed a wide variety of relevant State and facility documents, including policies, procedures, and juvenile corrections and other records relating to the conditions of confinement of hundreds of Justice Center residents. During our visits, we also interviewed Justice Center and State administrators, professionals, staff, and residents, and observed youths in their living areas, in activity areas, in classrooms, and during meals. In keeping with our pledge of transparency and to provide technical assistance where appropriate regarding our investigatory findings, we conveyed our preliminary findings to State counsel and to State and facility administrators and staff during verbal exit presentations at the close of each of our on-site visits.

















































