

June 23, 2010

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

RE: Delay and Discussion of the Proposed Detention Center for Baltimore City Youth Charged as Adults

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Thank you for your letter dated June 22nd in which you respond to the requests of multiple organizations in our letter dated June 14th.

Clearly there is far more data, experience and successes today, than there were in 2005 when the planning for the proposed detention center began under a former administration. The progress that you describe and your demonstrated leadership in providing increased and improved services for Maryland's youth, inspires us to eagerly accept your offer for continued discussion.

Thank you for this unprecedented opportunity to collaborate on a project of such significance and public expense and for delaying all contracts or other commitments for construction as we exchange our ideas and opinions on the issue.

We believe that there are three areas of discussion:

- 1) Public policy issues regarding transfer law and procedures
- 2) Population management of youth in both the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center and the Baltimore City Detention Center
- 3) Alternative services and placements for youth both those charged as juveniles and adults.

We will facilitate a team to meet with members of your administration and Ashley Myers, from the Safe and Sound Campaign, will contact Secretary Maynard and Secretary DeVore's offices to schedule a meeting immediately.

As reiterated over and over again in yesterday's briefing, there is always time to make a better decision. Since you have been in office – the landscape is far better than when the new jail was proposed. We are confident that we will arrive at a recommendation that promotes your vision and accelerates the progress that you and your administration have produced.

Sincerely,

Safe and Sound Campaign
Hathaway Ferebee

Community Law in Action
Terry Hickey

Open Society Institute – Baltimore
Diana Morris and Monique Dixon

Campaign for Youth Justice
Liz Ryan

cc: Secretary Gary Maynard
Secretary Donald DeVore

Bart Lubow, Annie E. Casey Foundation; J. Howard Henderson, Greater Baltimore Urban League; Rev. Dr. Alvin Hathaway, Union Baptist Church; Thomas Wilcox, Baltimore Community Foundation, Ellie Mitchell, Maryland Out of School Time Network; Tracy Velazquez, Justice Policy Institute; Wendy Hess, Public Justice Center; Matthew Joseph, Advocates for Children and Youth; Thomas L. Curcio, Board of Child Care; Cathy Surace, Maryland Disability Law Center; Shelley Tinney, MARFY; Kevin Zeese, Prosperity Agenda; Nzinga Oneferua-El, Safe Healing Foundation; Kimberly Armstrong, Eric R. Villines Advocacy Institute; Patricia Granata Eisner, Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship; Sister Barbara English, Julie Community Center; Gary Gillespie, American Friends Service Committee; Dennis Livingston, Baltimore Trades Guild; Destiny Murdock, BeMorePeace; Courtney Wiggins, United States Fellowship, Inc., Oak Hill House and School; Sheila Drummond; Tim Duke; Andrew D. Freeman; Jay Gillen; Kyle Halle-Erby; Jim McComb; Charlie Metz; Peter Schamp; Janice Wilcox; Dr. James E. Wood; Robin Williams Wood
