



Thursday, April 17, 2008

President Malagrino / PBA Local 105

Re: **Prison Privatization**

Dear President Malagrino:

We are writing you today to ask that your respective union consider joining our coalition resolved to fight back against the forces of prison privatization in the State of New Jersey. For years now, we have seen the threat to public safety posed by the use of privately operated halfway houses to reduce the state prison population. Escapes of criminals from these halfway houses have become all too common and frequent and the additional crimes they commit during and after their escapes back into the community, unacceptable. Meanwhile, escapes of felons from state correctional facilities are exceedingly rare on account of the fact they are staffed by trained and equipped correction officers and their perimeters, secured by armed law enforcement professionals. Unfortunately, it is clear that the Corzine Administration is planning to expand the use of these private facilities, which will only serve to exacerbate this threat to public safety.

Even worse, the State Parole Board has announced its new GEAR initiative, designed to use privately owned and operated *Residential Assessment Centers* (RACs), instead of county jails and state prisons, to incarcerate parolees released out into the community who violate the terms and conditions of their parole — including drug and weapon offenses.

Not surprisingly, the proprietors of these private facilities contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars each election cycle to state legislators. Please join us in telling our elected officials, public policymakers, and these privateers that New Jersey's public safety is not for sale.

Sincerely,

Steve R. Brzdek
President, NJ Law Enforcement Supervisors Association

Jeffrey S. Smith
President, NJ Superior Officers Law Enforcement Association

Scott L. Derby
President, NJ Law Enforcement Commanding Officers Association