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Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Mr. Earle Powell, Director
Legislative Audit Council
1221 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 315
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Powell:

Pursuant to the authority granted by S.C. Code Section 2-2-60(D) and House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 7.6, on behalf of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, a review of the South Carolina Department of Corrections is respectfully requested.

As for the scope of the review, in addition to any issues of concern you may identify during it, please address the following.

- Provide a breakdown of the average daily cost per inmate by facility; type of facility; and housing type (e.g., dorm, cell with roommate; solitary cell, etc.) itemized by security, food, clothing, housing, medical and mental health care, opportunities for self-improvement (e.g., employment; education; and other activities), etc. Also, compare agency expenditures per inmate to national standards.
- Assess litigation costs (i.e., determine if there are any trends and if there has been an increase in costs for lawsuits filed by employees and inmates).
- Analyze agency internal controls over keys; weapons; ammunition; supplies; pharmaceuticals; perimeter security access/egress controls; and visitation procedures.
- Analyze agency policies, procedures and practices covering:
 - critical incidents (e.g., escape, hostage situations, fights, riots, etc.);
 - assignment of inmates to facilities and housing type;
 - research and/or attendance at conferences by agency personnel to learn about new techniques and practices with corrections issues; and
 - cell phones and other contraband.

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- Analyze data on inmates' incidents and violations to determine if there are any identifiable trends (e.g., an incident is more likely to occur under certain circumstances).
- Assess agency personnel issues including: recruitment; training; morale; overtime work and pay; overall staffing levels; retention efforts; and turnover.
- Evaluate the sufficiency of performance measures in the agency's accountability report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for the important work that you do for the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wm. Weston J. Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wm. Weston J. Newton

cc: The Honorable Jay Lucas, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives
The Honorable Tommy Pope, Speaker Pro Tempore of the South Carolina House of Representatives
House of Representatives Standing Committee Chairs
The Honorable Gary Simrill, Majority Leader
The Honorable Todd Rutherford, Minority Leader
House of Representatives Legislative Oversight Committee Members