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April 14, 2010

Dr. Jeffrey A. Beard, Secretary
PA Department of Corrections
2520 Lisburn Rd.
Camp Hill, PA 17001

Dear Secretary Beard:

I write to you today as a follow up to my March 22, 2010 letter regarding my concerns about the reduction of the tower guard complement at SCI Dallas.

As you may know, a public meeting was held in my legislative district on April 8th by local and state elected officials to discuss the de-manning of prison towers with area residents. Mike Klopotoski, Deputy Secretary for the Eastern Region for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, was on-hand during this public meeting to answer questions about the department's proposal. During this meeting, it was discussed how the whistle/siren system at SCI Dallas is not fully functional. As you may have noted in my March 22nd letter, I was already concerned about the proposal to de-man the towers at the prison and after learning that only one of three community alert sirens are operational – with no impending plan to fix them – I am now more concerned than ever.

I have heard how SCI Dallas is outfitted with high-tech modern equipment to prevent inmate escapes and how new internal procedures have been adopted to better monitor prisoners. But my question remains – what if? How can our residents rest at night knowing that if another inmate escape occurs, the neighborhood alert system may or may not work?

As an elected official for the 120th Legislative District, the public has entrusted me to act on their behalf. I believe the first step in the department's mission should be guaranteeing the safety of the community. To that end, I respectfully urge you to repair the community alert system at SCI Dallas without delay.

Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this important matter any further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Mundy".

PHYLLIS MUNDY
State Representative
120th Legislative District

PM:klz