



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

SHR:SRJ:CMS:pjc  
DJ 168-71-26

*Special Litigation Section - PHB  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington DC 20530*

January 31, 2017

**Via Electronic and Regular Mail**

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Executive Counsel  
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Post Office Box 628  
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Re: Investigation of the St. Tammany Parish Jail

Dear Counsel:

We write regarding the Justice Department's investigation of the St. Tammany Parish Jail (the "Jail") pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997.

In July 2012, the Department issued a findings letter, detailing various constitutional violations in St. Tammany's mental health and suicide prevention practices at the Jail. In August 2013, the Department and St. Tammany entered into a Memorandum of Agreement that required St. Tammany to implement reforms at the Jail to address all outstanding issues set forth in our findings letter.

The Independent Auditor conducted five monitoring reviews during the past three years. After carefully reviewing the Independent Auditor's Reports and based on our own fact-finding regarding St. Tammany's effort to achieve substantial compliance with each provision of the MOA, we write to advise you and your clients that the Department has decided that the MOA should be terminated and our investigation closed.

Both the Independent Auditor and the Department have noted significant progress at each stage of implementing the MOA, which has resulted in greatly improved mental health care for hundreds of prisoners. St. Tammany has implemented significant reforms that have enhanced screening and assessment, improved treatment services, restructured suicide-prevention protocols, increased correctional and nursing staffing levels, improved building infrastructure to better monitor suicidal prisoners, and expanded quality assurance measures to prevent or

minimize harm to prisoners. Furthermore, we have noted a change in culture and practice at the Jail that gives us confidence that St. Tammany will continue its efforts to improve care for prisoners.

Still, we recognize that St. Tammany has not been able to transfer high-risk prisoners, who cannot be assessed within two hours, to an outside hospital or appropriate mental health provider for assessment as required by the MOA. It has, nevertheless, provided adequate care to address the needs of this population. We are also aware that St. Tammany has recently been more successful in having prisoners transferred to the State Hospital for assessment.

Last, we appreciate and acknowledge the industry and effort that your clients have committed to improve mental health care at the Jail. We further appreciate the courtesies extended to Department personnel and the level of access provided during the investigation and implementation period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven H. Rosenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Steven H. Rosenbaum  
Chief  
Special Litigation Section