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CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING AND EDUCATION SYSTEM COUNCIL

SOUTHWOOD COLLEGE  
SALEMBURG, NORTH CAROLINA  
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GEORGE WASHINGTON ONCE OBSERVED THAT "THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IS THE FIRMEST PILLAR OF GOVERNMENT." I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF THE TREMENDOUS CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN ALMOST EVERY FACET OF AMERICAN LIFE SINCE WASHINGTON MADE THIS STATEMENT, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT HIS OBSERVATION IS AS TRUE TODAY AS IT WAS WHEN HE MADE IT IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY.

AS THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY MORE COMPLEX, THERE HAS IN TURN BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE SPECIALIZATION AND TRAINING REQUIRED TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB IN ALMOST ANY FIELD OF ENDEAVOR. IN PRACTICALLY EVERY AREA OF EMPLOYMENT THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE TIME AND EFFORT DEVOTED TO TRAINING INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM THEIR JOB DUTIES.

IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA ALMOST EVERYONE IS TRAINED - AND PAID - TO BE A SPECIALIST OR PROFESSIONAL IN SOME FIELD.

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY AS A NATION AND A STATE, WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH DEDICATED CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL WHO, THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO KEEPING THE PILLAR OF JUSTICE FIRM AND STRONG. AS NORTH CAROLINIANS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE WE ENJOY HERE IS UNSURPASSED ANYWHERE IN THE NATION, AND MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS MUST BE GIVEN TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ADMINISTER OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE UNSELFISH SERVICE RENDERED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS HAS MADE OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM STRONG, BUT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE MUST PROVIDE THESE PERSONNEL ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB.

OVER THE YEARS THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS MADE THE JOBS OF OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICERS INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD CHALLENGE MY BELIEF THAT FEW JOBS IN OUR SOCIETY ARE MORE DEMANDING THAN THOSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS.

BUT, WHILE OTHER PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY DRAMATIC INCREASES IN TRAINING, SALARIES, AND FRINGE

BENEFITS, OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY RECEIVED INADEQUATE TRAINING, LOW SALARIES, AND FEW FRINGE BENEFITS. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS WE HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE STEPS TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS, AND WE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS.

THIS PAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO GUARANTEE SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HIGHER SALARIES AND A BETTER RETIREMENT SYSTEM, AND PASSED LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. A MINIMUM SALARY OF \$6000 WAS ESTABLISHED FOR ALL SWORN PERSONNEL, AND THIS REPRESENTED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FOR MANY OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE ACTUALLY BEING PAID LESS THAN HALF THIS AMOUNT.

BUT \$6000 IS STILL TOO LITTLE TO OFFER FOR THE SERVICES THESE PEOPLE RENDER, AND ADDITIONAL STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO INCREASE THIS AMOUNT. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO ENACTED A VASTLY IMPROVED RETIREMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL ALLOW SWORN OFFICERS TO RETIRE AT AN EARLIER AGE WITH HIGHER BENEFITS THAN IN THE PAST, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL SERVE AS A GOOD INCENTIVE FOR YOUNG MEN TO PURSUE A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

IN 1971, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATED THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND RETENTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL. SINCE THE COUNCIL BEGAN ITS OPERATIONS IN LATE 1972, STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ENACTED TO GOVERN THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS.

PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THESE STANDARDS, THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA REQUIRED THAT THE BARBER WHO CUTS YOUR HAIR BE TRAINED 1500 HOURS, WHILE THE OFFICERS WHO PATROL OUR STREETS AND PROVIDE CUSTODY AND TREATMENT IN OUR PRISONS WERE NOT REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ANY TRAINING AT ALL. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE STANDARDS WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD ASSURING THAT OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICERS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED, BUT MUCH IS LEFT TO BE DONE.

DESPITE THE CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORTS OF OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIES, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE THE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICERS NEED,

AS A RESULT, OFFICERS DESIRING SPECIALIZED TRAINING HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO ATTEND INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SUCH AS THE SOUTHERN POLICE INSTITUTE IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, THE NORTHWESTERN TRAFFIC INSTITUTE, IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS AND THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY IN QUANTICO, VIRGINIA.

CONCERNED MEMBERS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING OUR OFFICERS REQUIRE. DURING THE LATE 1960'S A STRONG MOVEMENT BEGAN TO ESTABLISH A CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY. AFTER MANY SETBACKS, THE EFFORTS OF THIS GROUP WERE REWARDED WHEN THE 1973 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATED THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL.

THE SYSTEM WAS TO HAVE AS ITS HUB A TRAINING AND EDUCATION ACADEMY, AND THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE HAS AWARDED A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS TO INITIATE THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING FUNDS TO PAY FOR ARCHITECTS TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR THE ACADEMY. AS YOU WELL KNOW, IT USUALLY TAKES YEARS TO DEVELOP ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS, AND WE ARE ALREADY 25 YEARS TOO LATE.

YOU CAN IMAGINE THEN HOW EXCITED AND PLEASED WE WERE WHEN SENATOR BLANCHARD AND THE PEOPLE OF SAMPSON COUNTY OFFERED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE SOUTHWOOD COLLEGE CAMPUS AND USE IT AS THE ACADEMY SITE. THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO US HERE CAN ENABLE US TO BEGIN TRAINING YEARS SOONER, AND AT A CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS. THE MEN WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM COUNCIL HAVE A COMBINED TOTAL OF OVER 500 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE, COMBINED WITH THAT OF THE STAFF WE WILL RECRUIT, CAN ENABLE US TO DEVELOP HERE IN SALEMBURG THE FINEST CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY IN AMERICA.

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTES, I WAS REMINDED OF THE IMPACT THAT ONE WELL-TRAINED CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICER CAN HAVE ON THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS. AT A COMMITTEE LUNCHEON I WAS SEATED NEXT TO A GENTLEMAN WHO, JUDGING FROM HIS APPEARANCE, WAS A LAWYER OR JUDGE. WE BEGAN A CONVERSATION AND I LEARNED HE WAS FROM CANTON, N. C.

I ALSO DISCOVERED, TO MY SURPRISE, THAT HE HAD SERVED TIME IN ALCATRAZ, SING SING, AND SEVERAL OTHER PRISONS. I ASKED HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO CAUSE SUCH A COMPLETE CHANGE IN HIS LIFE.

HE TOLD ME THAT A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER IN THE LAST PRISON IN WHICH HE WAS INCARCERATED HAD BEFRIENDED HIM AND HELPED HIM TO GET A FRESH START IN LIFE. HE SAID THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE OFFICER GAVE HIM HAD HELPED HIM TO REGAIN HIS SELF-RESPECT AND INSTILLED IN HIM A DESIRE TO "GO STRAIGHT." UNDOUBTEDLY THIS CORRECTIONAL OFFICER HAD BEEN WELL-TRAINED, AND I CAN'T HELP BELIEVING THAT IF ALL CORRECTIONAL, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COURT PERSONNEL WERE TRAINED TO DO THEIR JOBS AS EFFECTIVELY AS THAT OFFICER WE COULD MAKE FANTASTIC PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE RATE AND COST OF CRIME.

THE CREATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE LONG AWAITED TO BEGIN TO PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF TRAINING FOR OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICERS. I BELIEVE THAT WITH YOUR SUPPORT THE EFFORT BEGUN HERE TODAY IN SALEMBURG WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA.