



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

April 4, 2016

Governor William Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

The Honorable Governor Walker,

Attached is a document titled, *"The Officers' Perspective, A Rebuttal to Dean Williams' Administrative Review of the Alaska DOC."* The Association and Officers look forward to your Administration's response to the concerns addressed in this document.

The Administrative Review of the Alaska Department of Corrections conducted by Dean Williams contains factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions. It is egregiously damaging to the reputation and welfare of Alaska's Correctional Officers. Many times over the last four months, including when it was released and when Dean Williams was appointed Commissioner, we asked that it be retracted or corrected. I spoke with you personally after the last video was released and explained many areas where, why, and how the report was wrong.

ACO.A came to you and expressed its concerns over these distortions and factual errors. We asked you only to commit to revisit the Administrative Review, and to publicly release some positive statements about the Correctional Officers involved. It was a simple and fair request. However, it is now clear that you believe everything that Dean Williams has told you about Correctional Officers.

Out of consideration for your monumental workload, we have patiently waited for over four months. We can no longer wait as the Legislative session is coming to a close. Therefore, we will ask Legislators for their assistance in clearing the names of the Officers who were falsely and publicly accused. We will take any and all steps to restore these Officers' reputations and to restore the public's faith in all of Alaska's Correctional Officers.

We implore you to call a press conference and do the following:

1. Make a commitment that no further videos will be released without following the personnel records law and without proper explanation. If there is a reasonable, court approved, public-need to release any future videos, then the Officers' faces will be blurred so as not to place them and their families at risk;
2. Publicly retract the statement that an Officer was dismissed for lying about having been assaulted by an inmate;

3. Publicly retract the statement that an Officer assaulted an inmate with an object;
4. Publicly state that two previous and credible investigations had cleared Officers of wrongdoing in the Kobuk death; that the video recording's audio was important evidence that should not have been removed; and that it was inappropriate to meet with and mislead the Kobuk family to believe their family member was mistreated and a victim of excessive force, leading them to publicly call for criminal charges against the Officers;
5. Publicly explain that it was not cruel for Officers to leave an inmate on suicide precautions with only a suicide gown; instead say that the inmate was nude only because he chose not to wear the provided garment, the Correctional Officers acted as they were required by policy, and more importantly, they acted in the best interest of the inmate;
6. Publicly acknowledge that it was inappropriate to release videos of inmates being strip-searched without explanation that this is required for safety and security;
7. Publicly clarify that, regardless of Dean Williams' Administrative Review, no Officer was in any way responsible for any of the inmate deaths mentioned in the Administrative Review.

ACOA cannot simply pretend that the Administrative Review and the smearing of innocent Officers never happened in an effort to "get along" with the new Commissioner. We will do everything we can to undo the slander and libel against innocent Officers.

Starting on the day Dean Williams was announced as Commissioner, ACOA asked to meet with him. We have stated that we will always cooperatively and professionally work with whoever is Commissioner to seek solutions to the many challenges facing the Department of Corrections. We have a standing request to meet with the Commissioner now. We know and understand that he is busy with the Legislative Session and look forward to meeting with him when the Session is over. We are committed to meeting him as many times as necessary to find common ground for cooperation; however, our concerns over the Administrative Review and release of video are concerns that cannot be ignored.

Legislators have relayed some disturbing comments attributed to Dean Williams. We will not go into all of them, but will address one. We are told that he is portraying himself as a victim, but he is no victim; the Officers he falsely and publicly accused are the victims.

We urge you to do the right thing and honor your commitment to be transparent and honest. The Correctional Officers working around the State deserve no less. Please undo the unnecessary damage done to Officers by the Administrative Review and the release of the videos.

Sincerely,



Brad Wilson
Business Manager
Alaska Correctional Officers Association