



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Charlie Crist, Governor

Walter A. McNeil, Secretary

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July 30, 2007

Marlon Brown, County Manager  
County of Gadsden  
P.O. Box 1799  
Quincy, FL 32353

Dear Mr. Brown:

On behalf of Governor Charlie Crist and the Department of Juvenile Justice, I am pleased to confirm your appointment to Florida's Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform. This 25-member commission, comprised of citizens, stakeholders, and policy experts, will be chaired under the leadership of Florida Atlantic University President and former Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan. I am also honored that Dr. LaWanda Ravoira, a state and national expert on juvenile justice and girls issues, will serve as vice-chair.

The Commission will hold an organizational workshop on August 21, 2007, beginning at 2:30 pm, in Tallahassee. Lt. Governor Kottcamp has been invited to attend a welcoming reception that evening. The Commission will convene again on August 22, 8:00am – noon.

Following the organizational session in August, the Commission will then hold six public workshops across the state on the following dates and locations:

September 4 – 5	Ft. Lauderdale
September 25 – 26	Jacksonville
October 4 – 5	Orlando
October 17 – 18	Ft. Myers
October 29 – 30	Tampa
November 6 – 7	Pensacola

The specific meeting location within each city is still being finalized; however, please begin making necessary transportation arrangements to attend the above hearings. Recommended hotels, directions for public hearings, and guidelines and instructions for reimbursement of hotel and travel for commission members will be provided to you in the next couple of weeks.

You can anticipate contact from the media, interest groups, and stakeholders throughout this effort. I ask that you please provide information on contacts or information received to the Commission's Project Director, Ms. Bonnie Rogers at [blueprint@djj.state.fl.us](mailto:blueprint@djj.state.fl.us) that all

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*The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.*

commission members receive the same information. If you have any questions, you can contact Ms. Rogers at (850)921-8805.

The work of the Blueprint Commission will be assisted through collaboration with the Children's Campaign Inc., the Florida Juvenile Justice Association; and the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services. The outcomes of the Blueprint Commission's work will include:

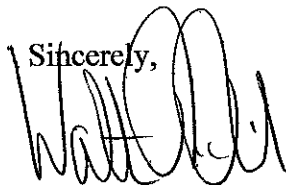
- Comprehensive recommendations for improving the juvenile justice system,
- A roadmap to set goals and guide improvements in administration, policy and legislative budget requests,
- The foundation for the Department of Juvenile Justice's development of a strategic/business plan for implementation, and
- To serve as a valuable benchmark and evaluation tool for monitoring progress toward the desired goals.

The importance of the work of the Blueprint Commission cannot be overstated. The six public hearings to be held across the state will facilitate the opportunity for Florida's citizens to become engaged and involved and will provide a level playing field for all stakeholders to be heard. Additionally, these hearings will serve as a forum where local and state leaders can come together, discuss common problems and seek common solutions.

At the end of this process, the Commission will provide a report of its findings, along with recommendations for improving Florida's Juvenile Justice system through a more effective balance between outcome-based programming and proactive prevention and treatment, while ensuring public safety. This report will be forwarded to Governor Crist and to the Florida Legislature.

Again, I extend my sincerest gratitude for your commitment and service to this important endeavor. I am confident that together we will achieve balance, fairness and accountability within Florida's juvenile justice system.

Sincerely,



Walter A. McNeil  
Secretary