August 16, 2013

To Whom it may Concern:

On June 6, 2013 as required by law, I conducted an inspection of the Carroll County House of Correction. The individual who accompanied me on my tour was Lt. Batchledor.

The facility is a little over ten years old and cost the taxpayer about 9.5 million dollars. The construction company who built the facility went bankrupt. Their precarious financial situation is reflected in the quality of the workmanship. Although I found several small things that need improvement or fixing, the overall condition of the facility appears to be a much older building than it actually is. The cement floors have literally hundreds of yards of cracks. Apparently, the floor was poured on the coldest day of the winter the year it was built. Upright walls have pulled apart, leaving open space to the outside. The County sued SMRT and received money to make repairs which have been done. The latter seems to be more cosmetic than substantial.

I found the following conditions:

1) All hall/floor areas that meet the vertical interior wall in corridors need cleaning. Apparently, the power polisher can not get to these areas.
2) There are many, many places that are in need of paint touch up.
3) The sally port has a light out which was being fixed at the time of the inspection
4) Classroom #2 was very clean.
5) There are leaks in the roof
6) The air conditioning units need to be moved to prevent constant damage from snow/ice sliding off the roof.
7) The kitchen is very, very clean
8) Grounds and exercise areas are in bad need of care.
9) Acute care area floor needs paint.

I found that the bathroom in the MSU had a urinal that did not flush properly and it has been that way for some time, I was told. It should be corrected immediately.
I was impressed with the medical portion of the facility. It was clean, well organized and the record keeping appeared to be exceptional.

My overall impressions were:

1) Security: Excellent
2) Staffing: Good. Although a seemingly high turnover rate, the personnel seemed to be well trained and very attentive to their work.
3) Training: Excellent. There seems to be a well thought out and continuing training program. Observed personnel were polite and responsive to inmate needs. One officer is responsible for training.
4) Cleanliness: Good. But there is room for improvement here.

I have never done a jail inspection but would give this facility a “Good to Excellent” rating.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Commissioner David L. Babson, Jr.