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NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Police as NJSOA Lodge 183

www.NJSOA.org

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

Devon Brown, Commissioner
State of New Jersey
Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 863
Trenton, NJ 08625-0863

Re: **Fire at Garden State Correctional Facility on August 09, 2005**

Commissioner Brown:

Pursuant to Article XXXIV of our collective bargaining agreement, I am reporting an incident of unsafe conditions at Garden State Correctional Facility. As you must be aware, there was a very serious fire at Garden State on August 09, 2005. As a result of this fire, dozens of staff members were sent to outside medical facilities for evaluation and treatment.

The purpose of this letter is to not only report the incident of unsafe working conditions, but to also demand that this complaint, and the fire incident itself be promptly investigated. I also request that corrective action be initiated to bring any unsafe conditions of work within established guidelines. Please provide this majority representative with a complete copy of the investigation package and any supporting documentation relating to the incident.

It is our responsibility, as the majority representative, to ensure that our members have a safe and healthy workplace. Any corrective action necessary to abate any unsafe conditions must be initiated as soon as reasonably possible. For this reason, I request that you conduct the investigation immediately, and that we are provided a full report, no later than August 25, 2005. If the investigation has not been completed, and/or we have not

been provided a full report, we will seek to address this serious safety concern through other available avenues. The safety and health of our employees and inmate residents depends on our quick response to this serious problem. As always, I am available should you wish to discuss this issue further. I look forward to seeing the investigation package, and hope that any safety discrepancies can be promptly addressed.

Thank you for your time and attention in this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey Smith
President

cc: Executive Board;
Membership;
Mario A. Iavicoli, Esq., NJSOA General Counsel;
Karl Klein, FOP 187 President
Thomas Moran, FOP 185 President;
Michael DeBellis, FOP 200 Vice President;
Ed Brannigan, NJ State FOP President;
Governor's Office of Employee Relations;
file.

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