

# Oklahoma Board of Corrections

# Resolution

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is a diverse and complex statewide operation consisting of: (1) 17 minimum through maximum security correctional facilities; (2) 22 community corrections level facilities, all that function 24 hours a day, seven days a week; (3) statewide probation and parole functions, including probation and parole districts and community sentencing programs; (4) statewide Correctional Manufacturing and Agri-Services units that generates food provisions, a revenue-generating manufacturing and service operation; (5) a sizeable offender educational program; (6) medical and mental health services for the individuals in the custody of the department; (7) comprehensive administrative support functions for the department, as well as administration; (8) a workforce of 5,894 employees, of which 4,833 are funded; and (9) a total fiscal responsibility of over \$500 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections has been under funded during each regular legislative session, and was forced to operate knowing that supplemental requests will be required for nine (9) of the past eleven (11) years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Legislature directed in July 2007 that MGT of America, Inc. (a nationwide firm with specialists in corrections, law enforcement, and public safety) conduct a comprehensive, independent efficiency audit of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections; and

**WHEREAS**, MGT auditors determined that Legislative deficit funding, and the resulting speculative supplemental funding promotes operational inefficiencies, resulting in an inability to plan for proper staffing and operational needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Correctional Association and MGT Auditors report that Oklahoma continues to maintain correctionally inappropriate staffing levels due to funding and salary deficiencies, resulting in difficulty with recruitment and retention; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is consistently burdened with legislatively created mandates that remain unfunded; and

**WHEREAS**, MGT definitively found that “the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is cost-efficient by virtually every objective measure of unit costs or staffing ratios;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Legislative funding deficits identified by the MGT Audit should be immediately cured; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is expected to provide effective programs and positive, measurable outcomes for persons not receiving such services from other governmental agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, MGT's finding that such unacceptable Legislative underfunding has caused the pervasive decay and condemnation of physical infrastructure to such an extent that public safety is compromised; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections offender population ranks among the highest in the United States (1<sup>st</sup> in the incarceration rate of women and 3<sup>rd</sup> for men per capita), and has risen every year without adequate funding and/or curative legislation:

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections respectively encourages the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor of State of Oklahoma to immediately approve adequate funding during the FY 2009 Session of the Oklahoma Legislature to:

- Ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained at facilities and in the community
- To have the ability to adequately recruit and retain staff at all levels
- To provide programming to reduce recidivism
- To provide services to maintain the system's constitutionality
- To capitalize and provide adequate infrastructure so as to not compromise public safety
- To support, via legislation and sufficient funding, the recommendations of the MGT Audit

**ADOPTED** this 10th day of January, 2008.

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David C. Henneke, Chair

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Earnest Ware, Vice Chair

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Ted Logan, Secretary

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Ernest F. Godlove, Member

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Matthew Hunter McBee, Member

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Robert Lee Rainey, Member

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Jerry L. Smith, Member