

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

June 12, 2009 - Weekly Update

CCSO Met With DPA:

CCSO President Tatum, Administrative Field Rep Braden, Administrative Liaison Canutt, and Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage met with DPA Deputy Director Julie Chapman and DPA Labor Relations Officer Kristine Rodriguez on Wednesday June 10th regarding the proposed cuts affecting CDCR. Proposals include a third furlough day, a 5% pay cut, and additional lay offs, reducing prison and parolee population by changing sentencing laws. The Governor hopes to save about \$100 million by reducing court-induced incarceration for low-level offenses such as vehicle theft or drug possession.

DPA will be holding job fairs, beginning in Sacramento, to assist employees receiving lay-off notices. The general fund is the problem. DPA is trying to move as many general fund paid employees (CDCR) into departments paid from special funds such as Caltrans.

There is a \$24 billion deficit and there are all kinds of cuts being proposed on the table. **However, nothing is set in stone until the legislature votes to pass the various proposals into the budget and they become law. Therefore, right now everything you hear, on the news, are just proposals.**

Keep in mind, California is in a financial mess, and some of these proposals will become reality. CCSO has taken a hard-line position against furloughs, pay cuts and changing sentencing laws, which would result in dramatic reduction of the inmate population. A significant reduction in the inmate population equates to prisons being closed and unemployment of CDCR staff. Releasing inmates into communities with high unemployment rates will only generate an increase in crime and exacerbate California's unemployment crises. CCSO will meet in a joint DPA and CDCR meeting next month to continue battling on behalf of CDCR staff.

CCSO Meets With SPB Judges:

On Friday, June 5th CCSO Attorney Wendell Llopis, President Tatum, Administrative Liaison Canutt and Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage met with SPB Presiding Administrative Law Judge Alvin Gittisriboongul and SPB Chief Administrative Law Judge Paul Ramsey over terminated cases still not on calendar that are nearing the 2 year mark and the new back to back scheduling of cases that have become a hardship on both CCSO and some attorneys. The back-to-back scheduling of a case is causing an attorney, for example, to stay in Blythe to hear a case for one to two weeks straight. That particular attorney is unavailable for those 2 weeks and cannot conduct any other cases; thus, impacting the wider representation of CCSO. Attorney Llopis, on behalf of CCSO, requested consideration on splitting cases to 3 days in one week and then complete another week as an example for the remaining 2 days. Judge Ramsey said there would be difficulty in matching 2 & 3 day splits for scheduling calendar dates and his push is to clean up the calendar backlog.

Judge Ramsey did present the idea of utilizing teleconferencing more, in order to hear more cases. Ramsey fears the budget cuts will dramatically affect SPB judges; thereby halting the progress that has been made to hear as many cases as possible.

CCSO cautiously agreed that teleconferencing in some cases might be beneficial in a budget cut scenario to continue to hear cases.

Judge Ramsey acknowledged that 47% of SPB cases are CDCR's and prison locations at times are isolated; thereby, resulting in traveling issues for judges. He believes teleconferencing is the answer to much of their existing backlog.

CCSO will keep the lines of communication open with Judge Ramsey and Judge Gittisriboongul to better accommodate the needs of our members.

Proposed Legislation Negatively Impacts Retirement:

A.G. File No. 09-0006 is a proposed statutory initiative related to the taxation of pension income. If this legislation is passed it will directly impact retirees and future retirees. Go to www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2009/090203.aspx to read about this initiative and then contact your district senator and assemblyperson.

CDCR Undersecretary Arrested:

CDCR Undersecretary Scott Kernan was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving while in a state vehicle, on Sunday June 7th, in the rural Sacramento County community where he lives. Kernan has, "expressed remorse for his actions" and is on personal leave awaiting discipline.

As this DUI has made the papers and the news on television, CCSO made a decision to report it in this organizational update. However, just as we support and respect the rights of our members who find themselves, at times, in problematic situations we extend that same support and respect to CDCR Undersecretary Scott Kernan.

TAKE CARE AND BE SAFE!