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Date: 8/31/2016 5:28:21 PM
Subject: FW: DJJ Press 8/31/2016

FYSA....

Very Respectfully,

Patrick Montgomery

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From: Patrick T. Montgomery
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 5:17 PM
To: Sylvia L. Murray <SLMURR@scdjj.net>; Brett M. Macgargle <BMMACG@scdjj.net>; Elizabeth A. Hill <EAHILL@scdjj.net>; Robin E. Owens <REOWEN@scdjj.net>; Freddie B. Pough <FBPOUG@SCDJJ.net>; James D. Quinn <JDQUIN@scdjj.net>; Sharonda L. Sutton <SLSUTT@scdjj.net>; Katherine L. Pierson <KLPIER@scdjj.net>; Judy L. Estren <JLESTR@SCDJJ.net>; Anthony W. Wynn <AWWYNN@SCDJJ.net>; Katherine P. Speed <KPSPEE@scdjj.net>; Andy O. Broughton <AOBROU@scdjj.net>; Sarah D. Smith <SDSMIT@scdjj.net>
Subject: DJJ Press 8/31/2016

Director, all,

After the Committee I talked with:

AP
WLTX
WPSA
Post and Courier
The State

I think from the committee meeting upcoming themes may be negative to fair coverage on topics to include staffing, use of pepper spray, security and preparedness.

After the session I talked with all five to bring a more complete DJJ Picture to include improvements, Birchwood, Job placement, etc.

A sample of print stories or below. I have not seen TV yet.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839864/sc-lawmakers-consider-pepper-spray-use-on-youthful-offenders>

COLUMBIA — Lawmakers are considering letting all staff members who guard the state's juvenile offenders to carry pepper spray as a means to avoid a repeat of the February riot that exposed serious security lapses in the agency.

In May, the Department of Juvenile Justice's 21 police officers became certified to carry pepper spray. Previously, no one carried the security method within DJJ facilities.

Some members of a joint review panel comprised of state House and Senate lawmakers on Wednesday marveled at the fact that the guards who interact with youthful offenders are regularly unarmed, with only the ability to use verbal commands before they could resort to physically restraining someone.

Larry Reid, of Correctional Consulting Services, said it typically is not a best practice to use pepper spray in juvenile facilities. Reid was hired by DJJ to do a safety audit of the agency's Broad River Road Complex.

"What we see in our auditing, especially in juvenile environments, there are concerns about misuse of that particular tool," he said of resorting to pepper spray to control inmates.

"There have been lawsuits that have been filed and some have found that there was misuse and others have found that there wasn't," he added.

The pepper spray conversation arose during a Tuesday hearing where Reid discussed the 110 change recommendations his audit team found when it reviewed the Broad River Road Complex.

Check back for updates to this story.

Reach Maya T. Prabhu at 843-509-8933.

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99038452.html>

That question came up during a hearing Wednesday where lawmakers learned that a security review of the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice yielded more than 100 recommended changes.

State Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, asked why guards could not carry pepper spray without undergoing police certification when the public can buy the spray without training.

Larry Reid, a Colorado consultant who the agency paid \$36,000 to conduct the security review, said his recommendations — more training Juvenile Justice staff in how to respond to emergencies and reviewing agency policies annually — do not include using pepper spray.

Reid said he does not recommend using pepper spray because of concerns about officers abusing the tool, lawsuits that result when it is used on youth inmates and the public's poor perception of the practice.

"The outcome in terms of stopping an incident have been very good," he said. "The ramifications of using the (spray) have not."

Most juvenile justice departments around the country do not use pepper spray, he added, noting youth-corrections professionals "are adamantly against use of that level of non-lethal force."

Reid spoke Wednesday to a joint committee of state representatives and senators tasked with reviewing Juvenile Justice.

Deputized police officers working at Juvenile Justice were equipped with pepper spray in May, a few months after

inmates set fires, destroyed property and assaulted guards and other inmates.

At the time, no officers on the youth-detention campus carried the spray, an agency spokesman said. Guards who are not police officers still do not carry the spray.

State Rep. Kirkman Finlay, R-Richland, expressed concern that Juvenile Justice officers took two hours to call for backup during the riot. Officers were limited to talking to and trying to restrain inmates who caused the riot physically, he added.

“Is two hours not enough time to realize that you aren't going to be able to regain control?” Finlay asked. “Words and hands weren't working.”

More than a dozen youth inmates were arrested in connection to the riot on charges ranging from attempted murder and sexual assault to burglary, arson and malicious damage to property.

After the riot broke out, lawmakers learned Juvenile Justice had no police chief, gang intervention specialist or rapid-response emergency team.

The agency rolled out a series of security upgrades after the riots, including pay raises for corrections officers.

Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

Read more here: <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99038452.html#storylink=cpy>

Legislators ask if DJJ officers should carry pepper spray

By Associated Press Published: August 31, 2016, 4:20 pm

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – Security changes at the Department of Juvenile Justice's main prison following a February riot include searching inmates head-to-toe when their visitors leave and allowing its police force to carry pepper spray.

Agency spokesman Patrick Montgomery said Wednesday pepper spray has been used once since the prison's police officers received authority in May. Montgomery could not immediately give details.

Legislators reviewing the troubled agency suggested the prison's other officers carry pepper spray as well. They scoffed at guards regaining control only through their voice or hands.

But a DJJ security consultant said that's not among his 110 recommendations. Larry Reid of Correctional Consulting Services says pepper spray can lead to misuse and lawsuits. He did not detail his recommendations.

A redacted version of his report could be available next week.

By Jamie Self

jself@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — Lawmakers are considering letting all staff members who guard the state's juvenile offenders to carry pepper spray as a means to avoid a repeat of the February riot that exposed serious security lapses in the agency.

COLUMBIA —

Some S.C. lawmakers want to know whether arming guards at the state's youth corrections facility with pepper spray could help prevent a violent outbreak like a February riot that rocked the agency.

That question came up during a hearing Wednesday where lawmakers learned that a security review of the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice yielded more than 100 recommended changes.

State Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, asked why guards could not carry pepper spray without undergoing police certification when the public can buy the spray without training.

Larry Reid, a Colorado consultant who the agency paid \$36,000 to conduct the security review, said his recommendations — more training Juvenile Justice staff in how to respond to emergencies and reviewing agency policies annually — do not include using pepper spray.

Reid said he does not recommend using pepper spray because of concerns about officers abusing the tool, lawsuits that result when it is used on youth inmates and the public's poor perception of the practice.

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Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

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By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

Legislators ask if DJJ officers should carry pepper spray

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Read more here: <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article99085252.html#storylink=cpy>

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Agency spokesman Patrick Montgomery said Wednesday pepper spray has been used once since the prison's police officers received authority in May. A teenager was sprayed June 23 after he destroyed property and threatened staff.

Legislators reviewing the troubled agency suggested the prison's other officers carry pepper spray too. They scoffed at guards regaining control only through their voice or hands.

But a DJJ security consultant said that's not among his 110 recommendations. Larry Reid of Correctional Consulting Services says pepper spray can lead to misuse and lawsuits.

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