



State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

November 21, 2008

Mr. Frank Fusco
Executive Director, South Carolina Budget and Control Board
Post Office Box 12444
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Frank,

I appreciate your last reply on the history of the Statehouse security project. I won't take time to respond to every issue you raise, other than to say this administration has a long record of questioning the need for this project once we gained a clear understanding of what it entailed and what a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars it would be.

We agree with you that the assignment of Bureau of Protective Services personnel is not up to the Board, and is in fact under the purview of a Cabinet agency. As such, starting on Monday, December 8, we will direct the Department of Public Safety to discontinue operation of these new security checkpoints, and to leave any guard-arms in their upright position. Those personnel will be redeployed around the Statehouse grounds, to resume their jobs of providing actual security rather than perceived security.

While nothing we can do will "un-spend" the \$6 million wasted on this project, this action will at least ensure that the waste doesn't continue, especially given the profound budget challenges faced by our state.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

October 14, 2008

Mr. Frank Fusco
Executive Director, South Carolina Budget and Control Board
Post Office Box 12444
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Frank,

I just wanted to follow up on a few points from your letter on the Statehouse Security Project. Specifically, I'd call into question your perspective given the Budget and Control Board's involvement in implementing this system, the lack of prioritization and general waste of taxpayer's dollars.

First, the thing I find most striking about this entire \$6 million security "upgrade" is that it has in fact lowered the overall security of the Statehouse complex. While I maintain that those of us working in the Statehouse are not a likely target of terrorism, if it is the school groups and visiting tourists we want to protect, I feel that the Board's changes to the security layout are not meeting that end. The more security personnel we have checking to be sure everyone has their RFID card at each entrance to the Statehouse garage, the less guards are around the complex itself to ensure the safety of the visiting public. It's important to remember that we're essentially talking about \$6 million in taxpayer dollars, and to that extent we should surely not decrease the public's safety.

Second, seems to me that the Budget and Control Board did a poor job of laying out the requirements of the system to state agencies ahead of time. The Department of Corrections was not clearly told in either your letters or e-mails where cards would be required and whether or not the loading dock was included in those locations.

Third, this incident with Corrections brings up the overall ineffectiveness of the system as it has been implemented. The Corrections driver in question was effectively able to get through the security checkpoint without the proper identification with the only result being damage to the traffic control arm and truck. If the system couldn't stop an innocent recycling truck, how can we expect it to stop someone of ill-intent? I doubt a jihadist would be deterred by a dent in the fender.

I would further question just how automatic these \$6 million upgrades are if they require someone to be stationed at the entrances to manually open and close the gates? As a taxpayer I'm bothered that we are now funding above and beyond that price tag to keep the posts manned when a computer system is supposed to be doing the work. This waste is – again – exacerbated given both the budget shortfalls and more pressing needs in our state.

Finally, there are the additional expenses – basically a \$50 user fee for additional RFID cards – passed on to the agencies and contract workers who require access to the Statehouse. Now everyone from the Fed-Ex delivery man, to a recycling truck from Corrections face a real increase in the cost of doing business.

I look forward to hearing from you. Take care.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanford

MS/kp

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
State Budget and Control Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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GOVERNOR

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FRANK W. FUSCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 8, 2008

The Honorable Mark Sanford
Governor, State of South Carolina
First Floor, State House
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Sanford:

I am writing in response to your recent letter concerning the State House Security Project.

It is important to note that this project was neither initiated nor proposed by the Budget and Control Board. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the State Law Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Safety conducted various security analyses of the complex and recommended that a variety of enhancements be made. The General Assembly subsequently funded construction and also agreed to a subsequent request from the Department of Public Safety that additional positions be funded to staff the project.

Concerning the gate behind the Calhoun Building, a Department of Corrections vehicle attempted to enter the grounds at this location without the RFID card that is issued to all authorized users. The Corrections employee damaged the traffic control arm at this location. While contractors are repairing this equipment, an employee from our parking office is stationed at the entrance to assist and screen personnel entering the complex. This has not resulted in any increase in personnel, budget or contract costs because Parking Services routinely monitors this area as part of its mission.

I agree with you that it is important for all state agencies to do everything possible to save taxpayer dollars. That's why we have trimmed the Budget and Control Board's staff by 128 employees since 2001, a 10 percent reduction that is equal to eliminating an agency the size of the Department of Commerce. We have also cut travel spending and returned \$30 million to state and local agencies by reducing fees for a host of services.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank W. Fusco".

Frank W. Fusco



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

October 8, 2008

Mr. Frank Fusco
Executive Director - Budget and Control Board
Post Office Box 12444
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Frank,

It strikes me that the only thing more wasteful than unnecessarily spending \$6 million in security upgrades for the Statehouse complex is to double up personnel costs in its administration. This only exacerbates the strain and load for taxpayers here in South Carolina. My opposition to the \$6 million security upgrades was well chronicled in the papers; as you may remember, I said that I didn't think the Statehouse was a high priority target and said the money would be better spent combating our state's violent crime problem.

What absolutely dumfounds me now is that because of the concerns with the ground level gate being hit by delivery trucks on the way in or out, a person has now been assigned over the last week – as I've gone in and out of the complex – to sit there facilitating the opening and closing of the gate and to check people's identification. So much for the \$6 million system. This is a colossal waste of money.

Not surprisingly, with the exception of Sherman's march through this town, our Statehouse has stood fine for nearly the last 150 years. I have no doubt that if we geared down on the present wastes of taxpayer money on supposed "security," it would continue just fine, and this is particularly important given the budget shortfalls our state faces.

No one is thinking about the reality of a threat, or a lack thereof, and then measuring it up against manpower requirements, which in this case are real. As a taxpayer I'm bothered, and would ask that we stop putting good money after bad with regard to some of the security measures now employed around the Statehouse. This is particularly true while the legislature is out of session. In their absence I feel just fine with the Comptroller General, the Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor and others in fending for ourselves in the event of a most unlikely attack.

Take good care, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford

MS/kp

Index Crime Rates by State



Sorted by Property (excl. arson) and Violent Crime Rates

(Rates are calculated per 1,000 inhabitants)

Property Crime Rate Rank-2006			Violent Crime Rate Rank-2006		
Rank	State	Property Crime Rate	Rank	State	Violent Crime Rate
1	Arizona	46.3	1	South Carolina	7.7
2	Washington	44.8	2	Tennessee	7.6
3	South Carolina	42.4	3	Nevada	7.4
4	Hawaii	42.3	4	Florida	7.1
5	Tennessee	41.3	5	Louisiana	7.0
6	North Carolina	41.2	6	Alaska	6.9
7	Nevada	40.9	7	Delaware	6.8
8	Texas	40.8	8	Maryland	6.8
9	Louisiana	39.9	9	New Mexico	6.4
10	Florida	39.9	10	Michigan	5.6
11	Arkansas	39.7	11	Arkansas	5.5
12	New Mexico	39.4	12	Missouri	5.5
13	Alabama	39.4	13	Illinois	5.4
14	Georgia	38.9	14	California	5.3
15	Missouri	38.3	15	Texas	5.2
16	Kansas	37.5	16	Arizona	5.0
17	Ohio	36.8	17	Oklahoma	5.0
18	Oregon	36.7	18	North Carolina	4.8
19	Alaska	36.0	19	Georgia	4.7
20	Oklahoma	36.0	20	Massachusetts	4.5
21	Utah	35.2	21	Pennsylvania	4.4
22	Indiana	35.0	22	New York	4.3
23	Maryland	34.8	23	Alabama	4.3
24	Colorado	34.5	24	Kansas	4.3
25	Delaware	34.2	25	Colorado	3.9
26	Nebraska	33.4	26	New Jersey	3.5
27	Michigan	32.1	27	Ohio	3.5
28	Mississippi	32.1	28	Washington	3.5
29	California	31.7	29	Indiana	3.1
30	Minnesota	30.8	30	Minnesota	3.1
31	Illinois	30.2	31	Mississippi	3.0
32	Wyoming	29.8	32	Wisconsin	2.8
33	Wisconsin	28.2	33	Iowa	2.8
34	Iowa	28.0	34	Virginia	2.8
35	Montana	26.9	35	Nebraska	2.8
36	West Virginia	26.2	36	Hawaii	2.8
37	Rhode Island	25.9	37	Connecticut	2.8
38	Kentucky	25.4	38	Oregon	2.8
39	Maine	25.2	39	West Virginia	2.8
40	Connecticut	25.0	40	Kentucky	2.6
41	Virginia	24.8	41	Montana	2.5
42	Pennsylvania	24.4	42	Idaho	2.5
43	Idaho	24.2	43	Wyoming	2.4

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Guard posts closed at State House

Posted: Dec 8, 2008 06:03 PM EST

Updated: Dec 15, 2008 08:24 AM EST

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - Last month, we told you Gov. Mark Sanford is taking steps to change the deployment of security officers at the State House.

The governor told leaders at the Public Safety Department he wants the guards moved out of checkpoints designed to protect the garage under Statehouse office buildings.

Sanford says those officers should instead be patrolling the State House grounds.

On Monday, those guard posts were closed and a newly installed electronic ID card system was turned off.

Originally, state government paid \$6 million for the entire security project.

Previous Story:

- **Sanford ordering changes to security around State House**

Posted by Jeremy Turnage



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Sanford ordering changes to security around State House

Posted: Nov 24, 2008 05:54 PM EST

Updated: Nov 28, 2008 08:31 AM EST

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - Earlier this month, we took a close look at State House security. Lawmakers and public safety officials said the spending of millions of taxpayer dollars was necessary to ensure the safety of the State House complex and its employees.

However, Gov. Mark Sanford disagreed. There is word that the governor is ordering some changes.

In the original story, the governor had harsh words for the security setup. He'd focused some of his criticism on the use of Bureau of Protective Services personnel to man traffic checkpoints at entrances to the garage under state office buildings.

Now, he's taking that critique one step further.

The new security plan is supposed to prevent someone bent on doing harm from getting access to the areas under and around the major state office buildings and the State House itself.

Our story pointed out that most of the time the people having trouble getting into those places were state employees, even legislators.

"There is no security. So you're paying \$6 million so that people in politics can say there was some added upgrade so they felt like they did something. But that is the perfect case of bureaucracy run amok wherein there is no result," Sanford said.

One particular issue was the checkpoints on Pendleton and Assembly Streets. Problems with the newly installed electronic card readers often forced security personnel to manually raise and lower the guard arms there.

In a letter to the director of the Budget and Control Board, Sanford again refers to the security project as a "colossal waste of taxpayer dollars."

Sanford says assignment of those officers is a responsibility of the Department of Public Safety, a cabinet agency.

Because of that, he says as of Dec. 8, he is ordering DPS to discontinue operation of the checkpoints and leave the guard arms in the "up" position.

Sanford says the personnel will be redeployed around the State House grounds where they will, in the governor's words, "resume their jobs of providing actual security rather than perceived security."

Workers say the ID card system continues to malfunction. They also say a scanning device near the lower entrance to the Statehouse is not being used.

One of the guard arms on Pendleton Street broken off when it hit a car more than six weeks ago has still not been replaced.

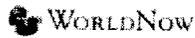
Sanford says the state can't "unspend" the millions wasted on the project. He says he's trying to make sure the waste does not continue.

Previous Story:

- **State House security a hot topic among WIS viewers**

Reported by Jack Kuenzie

Posted by Jeremy Turnage



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State House security a hot topic among WIS viewers

Posted: Nov 13, 2008 11:02 PM EST

Updated: Nov 19, 2008 11:20 PM EST

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - It's a building you've probably visited. Maybe as a tourist, for a field trip or even as a protestor.

But if you take a closer look, you will find cameras, metal detectors and other measures to keep the building secure.

Millions of taxpayer dollars were spent to bolster protection at the State House complex.

Lawmakers and public safety officials say the dramatic security upgrade is necessary in a time of terrorism.

The state's chief executive says the money has been wasted, and the system doesn't work.

It is the center of state government, towering over Columbia for a century and a half.

Withstanding war, economic calamity and all kinds of storms -- including the political ones.

And still, public safety leaders and lawmakers were convinced the South Carolina State House and the buildings around it needed more protection.

"I think since 2001, all levels of government -- federal, local, state had to revisit the way they secured their buildings and their personnel and their visitors," said Sen. Joel Lourie.

So, two years ago the General Assembly set aside millions for a multi-faceted security system now surrounding the State House complex with concrete and steel barriers, guard posts, warning signs, electronic surveillance and metal detectors at main entrances.

Anyone trying to enter the parking garage under the office buildings must pass checkpoints not unlike those at Fort Jackson.

If someone tries to rush past the guard house on Pendleton Street, their car could smash into a wedge that pops up from under the plate in the entry lane.

Are these measures really necessary?

"Absolutely not. And this is just a colossal waste of money," says Gov. Mark Sanford.

Sanford says lawmakers blew six million dollars on security that simply wasn't needed.

In a letter to the budget and control board, Sanford writes, "with the exception of Sherman's march through this town, our State House has stood fine for nearly the last 150 years. I have no doubt that if we geared down on the present wastes of taxpayer money on supposed 'security,' it would continue just fine."

"If this is about supposedly keeping a jihadist from blowing up Senate and House members, executive branch. The first thing you've got to look at is level of threat. And the reality is, with all

due respect to South Carolina -- which is again home, I love it. We're not on the radar screen like a New York City or San Francisco," says Sanford.

Lawmakers say Sanford is the one who needs to get real.

"This really has nothing to do with protecting the individual members of the legislature. We're there three days a week, five months out of the year. It's about protecting the foundation of government, the State House capitol, the capitol complex, the employees that work there five days a week, 40 to 50 hours a week, and the visitors," says Sen. Lourie.

Sanford says with state revenues now plummeting, taxpayers can't afford the extra security.

Especially, he says, if it doesn't deliver.

The governor says the gate on Sumter Street provides a perfect example of just how ineffective the system is.

It is supposed to restrict access to a parking lot, but while we were there the lights weren't on, the gate was always in the up position and there was no one there to check who was going out or coming in.

Another gate nearby separates the parking lot from a sidewalk. That control arm was also left up.

Many state employees ridicule the system, especially those issued electronic ID cards to enter the garage.

We saw why. Time and time again, the device that's supposed to read the cards and automatically raise those control arms failed to recognize the cards.

Often a security guard had to take the card from a driver and wave it in front of the sensor. Sometimes that didn't work, and the guard had to raise the gate manually.

John Crangle, a lobbyist for the government watchdog group Common Cause and a 22-year veteran of the State House scene.

"The only time that there seemed to be some concern about security was when the Iraq war started in 1991. They took additional security measures at that time. But since then I haven't really heard any conversation indicating that anyone felt there was a serious security problem at the state house complex," says John Crangle, a lobbyist for the government watchdog group Common Cause and a 22-year veteran of the State House scene.

"There is no security. So you're paying six million dollars so that people in politics can say there was some added upgrade so they felt like they did something. But that is the perfect case of bureaucracy run amok wherein there is no result," says Sanford.

"I'm not going to tell you it's perfect but anytime you implement a new program there are going to be problems," says Lourie.

Problems that include a Corrections Department recycling truck colliding with the gate behind the Calhoun Building. The result was an employee in a golf cart assigned to watch the parking lot until the gate could be repaired.

And one of those Pendleton Street control arms we talked about earlier is now missing, snapped off by a vehicle heading to the underground garage.

The Department of Public Safety says the arm came down on a state worker's car even though

the driver had a green light.

Sanford has criticized spending on the State House security project for more than a year. And last week, Budget and Control seemed to have had enough.

In a letter, the board's executive director tells Sanford, "It appears you are unaware that your office recommended increasing spending to hire guards for this project."

A Sanford spokesman says it is true. In his 2007-2008 budget proposal, the governor called for \$156,000 in new spending to hire five new security officers for the capitol complex.

Lawmakers approved four, and Sanford signed the appropriations into law.

Executive Director Frank Fusco also tells Sanford the board does not make appropriations decisions, or assign or deploy Bureau of Protective Services personnel. Fusco also says the design of the security system "has been driven by the state's public safety community, not the Board."

Fusco cites a 2005 memorandum from then-Director of Public Safety James Schweitzer recommending that "manned law enforcement posts should be used to strictly control access to the parking garage."

Schweitzer, according the memo, also recommended that all deliveries to the capitol complex be monitored and controlled, and that all employees at the State House should be issued "controlled identification."

Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer says the governor's staff thought the extra officers requested in the 2007-2008 budget would patrol the capitol grounds, not sit in guard houses watching traffic.

He says the governor has since tried to scale back spending on what Sawyer calls the "six-million-dollar boondoggle."

Reported by Jack Kuenzie

Posted by Logan Smith



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GoUpstate.com

S.C.'s violent crime rate again highest in nation

By ADAM BEAM
abeam@thestate.com

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South Carolina's violent crime rate again was higher than that of any other state in the nation in 2006 - and two of its smaller metro areas found themselves in the top five with some much larger cities, FBI statistics show.

South Carolina's violent crime rate - 765 per 100,000 people - ticked up about 0.5 percent over 2005, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2006. Nationwide, violent crimes were up nearly 2 percent.

Violent crimes include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Dozens of people gathered in prayer Tuesday night in downtown Columbia to remember some of the victims of those crimes. The S.C. chapter of Parents of Murdered Children marched from Finlay Park to Washington Street United Methodist Church for a candlelight vigil.

"You have to remember the victims," said Molly Brady of Columbia, whose 38-year-old son, Troy, was shot and killed in Forest Acres in 2004.

"It validates that they were alive and here and loved and with us and they still are. The love doesn't change."

Sumter's per-capita violent crime rate ranked third in the nation - behind Detroit and Memphis - and Florence ranked fifth - behind Shreveport, La. - out of 350 metropolitan statistical areas.

"Every city, especially metro areas, suffer from violent crime," said Florence Police Chief Anson Shells, who had not seen the new statistics. "I've never considered the Florence area to be a particularly violent area. I consider this to be a very safe area."

The Florence metropolitan statistical area includes Florence and Darlington counties. It also ranked fifth according to the FBI's 2005 Uniform Crime Report. Shells said Florence is struggling with a growing gang problem that has accounted for a "fair amount" of the area's violent crime. "Since 2003, we've had in excess of 30 homicides in Florence," he said. "We've linked nine of those homicides back to gang activity."

Sumter ranked 24th in the 2005 FBI report.

Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis declined to comment, saying he needed to look at the numbers more carefully before talking about them.