



**Wansley Walters**  
*Secretary*  
**Florida Department of Juvenile Justice**  
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**Christopher L. Holly**  
*Executive Director*  
**Florida Association of Counties**  
100 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301



November 1, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor  
400 South Monroe Street  
The Capitol, PL-05  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos  
President of the Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
The Capitol, Room 409  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Dean Cannon  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
402 South Monroe Street  
The Capitol, Room 420  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor Scott, President Haridopolos, and Speaker Cannon:

The Fiscal Year 2011-12 General Appropriations Act directed the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) to provide joint recommendations for locally funded and operated juvenile detention by November 1, 2011. A workgroup convened on June 10, 2011, and met on three subsequent occasions. The group submits the following recommendations.

**Recommendations**

- 1) *Align the DJJ detention budget with detention utilization as provided by existing Florida Statutes.*
- 2) *Proceed with detention reform, including the implementation of a scientifically-validated risk assessment instrument that can accurately predict the risk of reoffending and court appearance.*

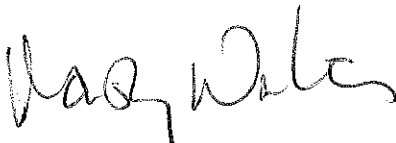
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*Part of the Community, Part of the Solution*

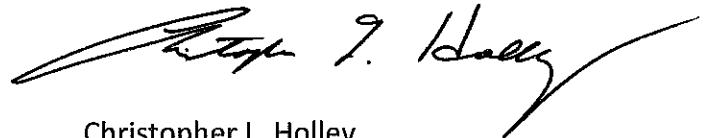
- 3) *DJJ and the counties will collaborate closely to achieve accountable and collaborative governance at the local level.*
- 4) *Engage the Legislature in a discussion regarding the functional scope as it relates to juvenile justice detention and whether the funding, operations and oversight of juvenile justice detention should be the responsibility of the state or the counties.*

The Department and the Association of Counties appreciates the opportunity to collaborate on recommendations relating to the very complex issue of detention cost sharing. The Department and the Association believe that this effort has had a significant positive impact on the relationship between the Department and counties and would encourage the continuation of this important dialogue. Additional information relating to our discussions is attached.

Sincerely,



Wansley Walters  
Secretary  
Department of Juvenile Justice



Christopher L. Holley  
Executive Director  
Florida Association of Counties