

EXECUTIVE ORDER 7-08

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE
PHILADELPHIA PRISONS STRATEGIC PLAN**

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the citizens of Philadelphia is properly the concern of City government;

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Prisons System (PPS), established by Executive Order No. 5-88, plays a crucial role in maintaining public safety through the incarceration of persons awaiting trial and those convicted of offenses;

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2008, I declared a Crime Emergency and directed the Police Commissioner to develop a crime strategy, and the Commissioner presented his Crime Fighting Strategy on January 30, 2008;

WHEREAS, PPS will be an important agency in the effort to implement the Crime Fighting Strategy;

WHEREAS, as of March 23, 2008, the prison population stood at 9,200;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan for public safety requires implementation of the most up-to-date practices in the administration of the prisons to protect Correctional Officers, prison staff, inmates and the public;

WHEREAS, PPS, through assessment and provision of social services, job training, and education, plays a crucial role in our efforts to reduce recidivism among ex-offenders by creating opportunities for them to redirect their lives in a positive manner;
and

WHEREAS, by long-standing practice, the Prisons Superintendent, the head of PPS, has come to be called the Prisons Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, it is hereby ORDERED:

SECTION 1. DEVELOPMENT OF PHILADELPHIA PRISONS STRATEGY

A. The Prisons Commissioner is hereby directed to make an immediate inquiry into the current state of the Philadelphia Prisons System, report his findings to the Mayor, and to present to the Mayor by April 24, 2008 a comprehensive plan to manage the prison system and to reduce the prison population in the interest of public safety. The Prisons Commissioner shall work with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety to develop this strategy.

B. The plan shall include recommendations for short, medium, and long-term reforms, including, but not limited to:

1. recommendations to changes in policies, personnel and equipment that are necessary to effectuate the plan;

2. recommendations for reforms to improve the recruitment of Correctional Officers and other staff, to enhance staff morale, increase PPS' technological capabilities, and to ensure that PPS has the most productive workforce possible;

2. recommendations for reforms to other parts of the criminal justice system, including the courts, the Probation and Parole Department, the District Attorney's Office, the Defender Association of Philadelphia, and the Sheriff's Office, that are necessary to improve the management of the prison population;

3. recommendations for reforms to PPS programs for the prison population, including, but not limited to, prisoner assessment, provision of drug,

alcohol, and mental health services, and the implementation of literacy and other educational and training programs; and

4. recommendations for reforms to the Mayor's Office of Re-Entry and other agencies involved with ex-offenders that are necessary to effectuate the plan.

SECTION 2. COOPERATION

All departments, offices, boards, commissions and agencies of the City government, and all members of the Executive and Administrative Branch, are hereby directed to cooperate with the Prisons Commissioner in connection with his responsibilities hereunder.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This order shall be effective immediately.

Date: March 24, 2008


Michael A. Nutter, Mayor