



**FELMERS O. CHANEY  
ADVOCACY BOARD  
3909 N. Sherman Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53216  
Tel: (414) 442-3775  
April 26, 2015**

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Sherman Park Community  
Association (SPCA)  
Milwaukee Police Dept.,  
7<sup>th</sup> District; 5<sup>th</sup> District

**Center Superintendent**

Michael Cockroft

**In Memory Of:**

Felmers O. Chaney  
(1918 – 2012)

Ms. Cathy A. Jess, Administrator  
Division of Adult Institutions  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
3009 E. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53707

**Sent via Electronic Mail**

Dear Cathy:

The Felmers Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB) has reviewed your letter of March 12, 2015 and, in the spirit of cooperation that often has characterized our relationship, we wish to share with you and with the significant list of Department of Corrections (DOC) associates listed as recipients of your letter, the desire that the unique relationship that FCAB and DOC has enjoyed will continue. While we acknowledge your offer to participate in any Milwaukee-area Community Relations Board DOC creates, we would note that FCAB exists because, unlike the other institutions your letter references, the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center was established and named based on agreements between the local community in which the facility is located; the namesake of the facility; and the Department itself.

From the initial invitation extended by the DOC to the Sherman Park Community Association to become a member of an advisory board with an expressed purpose *“in support of effective reintegration of offenders back into the communities from which they come,”* FCAB has worked under a mandate *“to address the interests and concerns of the community and facility.”*

Again, following the indication the Board was to *“serve as a contact point between the facility and the community at large to share information and respond to issues that are brought to their attention,”* FCAB has acted as a channel through which concerns and ideas could be brought to the attention of both the DOC and the community based on the perceptions of both the Board and the Department. Unlike an area Community Relations Board that would address issues deemed *“worthy of a Community Relations Board’s attention,”* the DOC invitation under which FCAB has functioned recognized the unique circumstances of the creation, location, and stated mission of the Felmers O. Chaney facility and established a framework for a special and dynamic opportunity.

Very central to that relationship was the 2007 communication between Felmers Chaney and DOC in which Mr. Chaney noted that he had granted permission for the use of his name on the facility as a recognition of the special and unique nature of the facility. We have greatly appreciated that uniqueness and wish its existence to continue. . [For your reference, attached is a copy of the Declaration by Felmers Chaney describing his understanding of the agreements through which his name was associated with the facility]. As previously expressed to you, the actions taken by DOC, as iterated in your 3/12/15 letter, constitute a violation of the agreement that was reached, prior to construction of the Chaney Center, by DOC and the Sherman Park Community Association that there would be a community advisory board specifically for the Chaney Correctional Center.

We very much recognize and respect the DOC desire to align resources where facilities have comparable issues. We thus acknowledge the invitation to participate in any new Community Relations Board you may establish in the

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Milwaukee area. We do, however, respectfully request that, based on the agreements and representations DOC has made throughout the history of the Felmers O. Chaney Center, and the important opportunities for fulfilling the rehabilitation and reentry aims that are appropriately expressed as the goals of both DOC and FCAB, that the long-established relationship between the two entities be restored and continue. Please keep us apprised of the development of the Community Relations Board and its membership composition.

Respectfully,

**Membership**

Chaney Community Advocacy Board

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Hon. Clare Fiorenza, Judge  
Hon. Valarie Hill, Judge  
Deidre Morgan, DOC Deputy Secretary  
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Melissa Roberts, DOC Legislative Liaison  
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Michael Cockroft, FCCC Superintendent  
Pamela Zank, MWCC Superintendent  
Gary Mitchell, MSCC Superintendent

*Website: <http://www.fcabmke.org>*