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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

BETTY JEAN GRANT
Chair of the Legislature
2nd District Legislator

- 790 E. Delevan Avenue
  Buffalo, New York 14215
  716/894-0914
  FAX: 716/896-1463
- 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
  Buffalo, New York 14202
  716/858-8869
  FAX: 716/858-8895

TO: Legislator Betty Jean Grant

FROM: Karla Thomas, Legislative Assistant

DATE: April 20, 2012

RE: Formal Complaint

Our office has received a complaint from Ms. Betty Goldsmith, 141 Urban Street, regarding her grandson Jordan Goldsmith who is currently being held in the Erie County Holding Center. According to Ms. Goldsmith, her grandson was mandated to the Holding Center by Judge McLeod for truancy.

Ms. Goldsmith shared with this office that she has attempted to make deposits in her grandson's commissary on two occasions and was advised that due to a computer problem, the Holding Center is unable to accept deposits for inmates.

Karima Amin of Prisoners are People Too called the Holding Center to inquire about the commissary problem and was told by the answering party at the Holding Center "that is the least of our concerns" because the computer problem was affecting the entire operation of the Holding Center.

It is unclear whether inmates who already had money in their commissary accounts prior to the computer malfunction still have access to their money or not, however, this issue hosts the possibility of exacerbating into a volatile situation should it continue without alternative resolution being identified.

Ms. Goldsmith stated there were other parents and relatives trying to put money in inmate's commissary also and they were upset that no other means was available to them. She stated that there is a sign on the door and the workers are upset because this has been an ongoing problem since before Easter. Mrs. Goldsmith has stated that she is available to share her concerns with the Legislature and wants to see something done about this right away.

I am therefore respectfully submitting the aforementioned on her behalf. Thank you.

Cc: Robert Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature