

may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

Issued: May 25, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE-00-022]

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:

International Trade Commission.

TIME AND DATE: June 2, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436, Telephone: (202) 205-2000.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting: None.
2. Minutes.
3. Ratification List.
4. Inv. No. 731-TA-853 (Final) (Structural Steel Beams from Japan)—briefing and vote. (The Commission will transmit its determination to the Secretary of Commerce on June 9, 2000.)
5. Inv. Nos. AA1921-143 and 731-TA-341, 343-345, 391-397, and 399 (Review) (Certain Bearings from China, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom)—briefing and vote. (The Commission will transmit its determination to the Secretary of Commerce on June 16, 2000.)
6. Outstanding action jackets: None.

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

Issued: May 23, 2000.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-13808 Filed 5-30-00; 10:17 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement—Videotape: Community Education on Jails

AGENCY: National Institute of Corrections, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Solicitation for a cooperative agreement.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Corrections, Jail Division, is seeking applications for the development of a broadcast quality videotape on the basic issues, functions, and roles common to local jails.

Background

Historically, jails have functioned in relative obscurity within their own communities. Although the community may generally acknowledge the need for a jail, the jail itself is ignored; kept out of sight and out of mind. The community wants only to know that dangerous criminals are removed from the streets and locked away. And, although jail practitioners decry the community's lack of knowledge, they have done little to remedy this. Traditionally, jail administrators have focused to intently on their internal role in the jail that they have neglected their role external to the jail—fostering public understanding of and involvement with jail issues and operations. As a result, jails, which should be viewed as a community service, are, in fact, isolated from their communities.

As a result of this isolation, the public shapes its perceptions of the jail, staff, and inmates from negative images presented in film and television drama. Jails are portrayed as dirty and dangerous, and jail staff as lazy, incompetent, and meanspirited. Inmates are portrayed as either dangerous and inhuman or valiant warriors against the system. This unflattering perception is then compounded if negative events force the jail to the forefront of the news.

The jail's isolation does a disservice to the community and to the jail itself. The jail belongs to the community and should reflect the community's values, both in its role in the criminal justice system and in its internal operations. This, however, is not possible if the community has no understanding of the jail, and no inclination to learn, given the negative image it has. When local government officials do not understand the role of the jail and the complexity of its operations, they are likely to underfund even basic functions, often creating dangerous and unhealthy conditions in the facility and putting the community at risk. This, then, leads to a high degree of liability, and the local government may find itself the target of a costly lawsuit. Jails struggle to find and retain qualified staff, but recruiting quality staff is close to impossible when the jail is viewed as a most undesirable work environment. The inadequate

staffing levels and the poorly qualified staff in many jails only compound liability issues.

Project Objectives

A primary remedy for the problems faced by jails is public education. This videotape will be a highly effective tool for jail administrators and sheriffs embarking on an education program for the community. The video format will be a visual counterpoint to existing public perceptions, providing specific information about the role and operation of the jail, the work and commitment of the staff, and the identity and needs of the inmates. The video format will also allow the message to be portrayed easily to various community members, including business people, educators, local officials, and general community groups. The videotape will provide the foundation for the efforts of sheriffs and jail administrators to inform the public about jails generally, their jail specifically, and the need for community involvement in the jail.

Scope of Work

Videotape Length: About 30 minutes.

Videotape Audience: Local community members and local officials.

Use of Videotape: The videotape will be used as a tool to educate its audience about local jails. It will be shown to local community members and local officials. Sheriffs and jail administrators will use the videotape as a foundation to inform the audience about jails generally, their jails specifically, and the need for community involvement in the jail.

Videotape Distribution: NIC expects to widely distribute the videotape. It will be made available, upon request and free of charge, through the NIC Information Center. Local officials, detention practitioners, professional corrections organizations, private corrections consultants, and professionals in related fields will be able to request the use of this videotape.

Videotape Content: The videotape will provide specific information about the role and operations of jails, introducing some differences among jails in the United States and highlighting the things that all jails have in common. These commonalities include basic functions, complexity of operations, and chronic needs and problems. The videotape will also provide information about the work of jail staff and the characteristics of inmates. It will illustrate information through professional narration, interviews, graphics, animation, scenes from jails, and/or other strategies