

1 allegations, and so much of what I heard earlier stuck with
2 me because that's what we were talking about during our
3 press conference, in our recommendation letter to the
4 Juvenile Court judge who was then supervising the facility
5 who the superintendent directly reported to, talking about
6 the idea that his sort of willful failure to report what was
7 going on created an atmosphere that anything goes, and it
8 was pervasive, and it was from the top down. And the only
9 way that we found out what was going on inside this
10 detention facility was that one of the young girls' mothers
11 came forward and made a report because the girl had told her
12 mother what happened. And our investigators then started
13 conducting some interviews, and we actually had to do a --
14 conducted a search warrant at the Juvenile Detention
15 Facility and found a microcassette recorder with an old tape
16 inside of it, played the tape. The tape was actually a
17 statement that he took from one of these victims where she
18 outlined the accounts of what had happened, and at the end
19 of the statement he says, "I don't believe you." Well, then
20 she gave him the name of someone who was also housed in the
21 Juvenile Correction Facility with her, another young woman,
22 and he took a statement from her, and this young woman
23 corroborated what the first female victim said, and nothing
24 happened, and that tape remained in the superintendent's
25 drawer and the guard that was accused of the misconduct went

1 on to continue working in that facility.

2 Now, what is I think most interesting and most
3 frightening about what was going on is that of the ten
4 defendants that we charged with -- and six victims -- 52
5 charges in all, all but one of the incidents were
6 non-violent, they were consensual with these 13- and 14- and
7 15-year-old female detainees with the male guards, not
8 legal, obviously, since they were underage and they can't
9 consent to this activity while they're incarcerated, but it
10 was consensual nonetheless, and it occurred both inside the
11 facility and then again outside the facility when these
12 females were released, they actually initiated contact with
13 their -- with the guards that they had become acquainted
14 with while inside the facility.

15 And what -- and again, I think that everyone
16 understands the situation. You have young women who already
17 are coming from somewhat troubled homes and environments,
18 they are vulnerable, and they are put into a position where
19 they are deprived of their freedom, and there are
20 individuals in there who are charged with their safekeeping
21 in captivity and who are preying upon them, and they're
22 using methods like extra privileges, whether it's being able
23 to stay up after hours, whether it's extra food at mealtime,
24 in some cases, the grooming -- which is what we call it --
25 the grooming period included love letters, teddy bears that

1 said "I Love You" on them. One young female was frightened
2 to death about being transferred over to girls' school from
3 the juvenile detention facility, which is obviously a more
4 secure environment, and a control booth operator, the person
5 who actually operates the doors in the facility -- just to
6 show you how pervasive this attitude was -- said that in
7 exchange for oral sex that he would be able to negotiate an
8 early release for her, which was completely untrue, but,
9 again, preying upon her fears and his apparent position of
10 authority while inside the facility.

11 And, again, this investigation began in January
12 just on a tip, and our investigators were fortunate enough
13 to find that microcassette tape and then conduct over 50
14 witness interviews and file these charges, but it had been
15 going on since at least the year 2000. And after the
16 reports hit the media, we had several other females come
17 forward, and, so, that investigation is still ongoing to
18 determine how bad it was. But we recognized after about 30
19 days in that we had to do something, and, again, in Indiana
20 and in Marion County, the Juvenile Court judge presides over
21 the detention facility, not directly involved in the
22 day-to-day operations, that charge is left to the
23 superintendent, but is ultimately responsible for what goes
24 on there. So, in February we sent a letter to Judge Marilyn
25 Moores saying, look, we have this ongoing investigation, our

1 shared primary concern is the safety of the children
2 detained there, and even though the criminal investigation
3 is ongoing it is the duty of my office to protect the
4 investigation while also notifying you of the recommended
5 policies and procedures to ensure the safety of the children
6 who are detained there. And the very first recommendation
7 that we made was that there was absolute failure in their
8 legal compliance to report child abuse. And we have what's
9 called a 301 report, and even if the superintendent did not
10 think that this witness was credible, he had an absolute
11 duty to report the allegation to law enforcement. He wasn't
12 law enforcement. He didn't have any expertise or ability to
13 conduct an investigation in an impartial and thorough way to
14 determine whether or not that abuse actually happened.
15 There was completely inappropriate contact with the female
16 detainees. That was another pervasive violation and
17 something that was against the policies at the juvenile
18 detention center; it was just never enforced. There was a
19 constant interaction between the male supervisors and the
20 female detainees.

21 The internal security -- I know that we talked
22 about that a little bit this morning -- is almost
23 non-existent. There is no video of any of these acts
24 because the cameras were not in places, they could obviously
25 find places to have sex without being on the camera and it

1 was happening. There was no real formal internal complaint
2 process, no way to have any sort of follow-up about these
3 allegations and what was going on.

4 And the last piece of this was that the staff was
5 just completely unprofessional, unqualified to be in charge
6 of young, vulnerable detainees. And some -- I can't
7 remember who said it earlier in the day -- but the resources
8 have to be put into obviously hiring the best people
9 possible to not only run the facility but then also be the
10 youth services managers you have to have -- I think somebody
11 used the word or term "zero tolerance" toward this type of
12 behavior, and there has to be absolute oversight from some
13 sort of outside agency, whether it's a commission.

14 Since this has broke, since these people have been
15 charged, we've turned over the running of the facility to
16 probation, to actually put it in the hands of law
17 enforcement at least in the short term as a temporary fix to
18 the problem, but since then there's been another study
19 that's been done in terms of all the ills, and I think we
20 have some serious issues in Indianapolis to address.

21 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you very much.

22 MR. BRIZZI: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Dr. Krisberg?

24 DR. KRISBERG: Thank you very much. I'm very
25 honored to be invited by this Commission to talk on this