

Honorable Bruce R. Beemer
Inspector General of Pennsylvania
555 Walnut Street
8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Review of activities of the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Corrections

Dear Inspector General Beemer:

You are no doubt aware of the recent series of murders committed by current state parolees across the Commonwealth, including the stabbing deaths of three children and another woman, the strangulation of a domestic partner, and the shooting death of a police officer. This brutality has understandably provoked shock and concern among those who work in law enforcement and the public in general. I share these concerns.

I am gratified to know that the Department of Corrections is undertaking an expedited internal review of these cases in an effort to examine its own practices and to determine if there are improvements that can be made to better protect the public. This internal review is a critical and necessary step for the Department. However, I believe that an independent investigation also should be and must be conducted of both the Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation and Parole in these matters to restore public confidence in our criminal justice system and parole process. Indeed, I believe it is particularly important to understand what, if any, improvements can be made in these processes in light of the fact that the General Assembly is in the process of considering possible reforms to the criminal justice system. Similar to your office's investigation of the Department of Human Services in connection with the tragic death of Grace Packer notwithstanding an internal investigation by the Department of Human Services, I believe that an independent investigation by your office in these matters will be of incredible value to the public and to policymakers.

The Office of Inspector General, under Act 29 of 2017, has the duty to "conduct civil and administrative investigations of a program or operation of an executive agency." Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Office of Inspector General initiate and complete a thorough review of the Department of Corrections and Board of Probation and Parole with respect to the actions of each in fulfillment of each's responsibilities as relates to the tragic crimes in these cases.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,

Rob Kauffman