

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD  
FOR PUERTO RICO



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Executive Director

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

September 6, 2019

The Honorable Jesús Manuel Ortiz González  
Representative  
House of Representatives

Dear Representative Ortiz González,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter to investigate information on correctional officers in “Destaque” and in specialized units. At this time, the Oversight Board has requested the information of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“DCR”), but has not yet received the required information in full. For example, it is not yet clear how many corrections officers on the payroll roster are actually working within the corrections system, rather than being assigned duties outside that system. We will continue to analyze the agency’s use of resources in order to ensure a safer environment for correctional officers and inmates.

Secretary Erik Rolón has stated that the safety measures failed both the correctional officer and the inmate; he has asserted that the lack of needed officers is a result of a lower payroll budget, even though during the fiscal year 2019 DCR underspent its payroll budget by \$10M, and in addition, there was a payroll surplus of \$12.9M transferred to the Department of Health during fiscal year 2019. Part of our analysis is aimed at determining whether additional correctional officers are required and the related cost. Moreover, it is important to note that the Certified Budget for fiscal year 2020 includes a Special Revenue Fund budget increase from \$7 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$26 million in this fiscal year 2020, which is intended to be used for capital expenditures, purchased services, and operating expenses.

The Oversight Board is taking this matter very seriously. As soon as the analysis is complete, the Oversight Board will share the information with your offices. In the meantime, and if agreeable to you, we would like to request a meeting with your staff to share impressions about the situation at DCR. The Oversight Board looks forward to working with you to accomplish the requirements and goals of PROMESA for the benefit of the people of Puerto Rico.

The Honorable Ortiz González  
September 6, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,



Natalie A. Jaresko

CC: Mr. Elí Díaz Atienza