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NEWS

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Authority Hosts State Commission on Criminal Justice & Sentencing Reform for Presentations and Discussion on Deterrence and Incapacitation

CHICAGO—June 24, 2015. Impacts of deterrence and incapacitation on the justice system will be the focus of this week’s Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform meeting.

The meeting will be hosted by the Authority at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at 300 W. Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Building Conference Room, in Chicago.

The Commission will welcome John Jay College’s David M. Kennedy for a presentation on deterrence in academic literature and how increased prison sanctions fail to impact deterrence while harming crime prevention efforts. Kennedy’s work on gun violence and open drug markets provides a model for reducing crime and incarceration, which also will be discussed.

Kennedy is the author of “Don’t Shoot, One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America.” He is the director of the Center for Crime Prevention & Control, a professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, and co-chair of the National Network for Safe Communities. His book inspired Peoria’s Don’t Shoot program, an aggressive multi-strategy anti-gang and anti-gun violence initiative.

Authority Executive Director John Maki, also a Commission member, will give opening remarks. Also on the agenda is a presentation by Authority Research Director Megan Alderden using Illinois data to provide a framework for how deterrence and incapacitation influence crime and recidivism. After the presentations, Illinois law enforcement officials and policymakers will discuss the issues in a panel discussion.

Gov. Bruce Rauner signed Executive Order 14 (2015) establishing the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform in February. Comprised of more than two dozen criminal justice practitioners, lawmakers and policymakers, the Commission is charged with developing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to meet the goal of reducing Illinois' prison population 25 percent by 2025.

For more information, go to www.icjia.state.il.us/cjreform2015.

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