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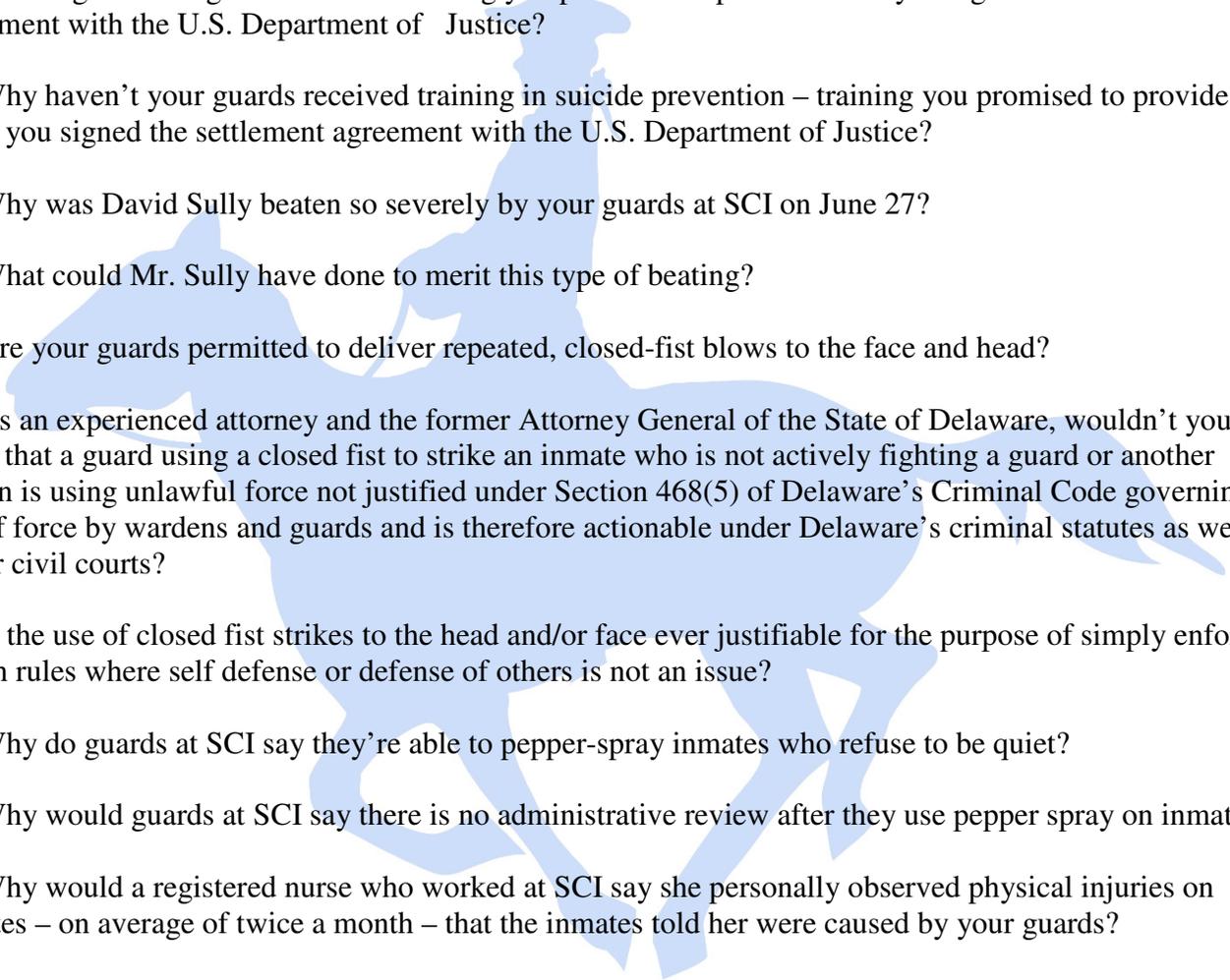
## An open letter to Carl Danberg

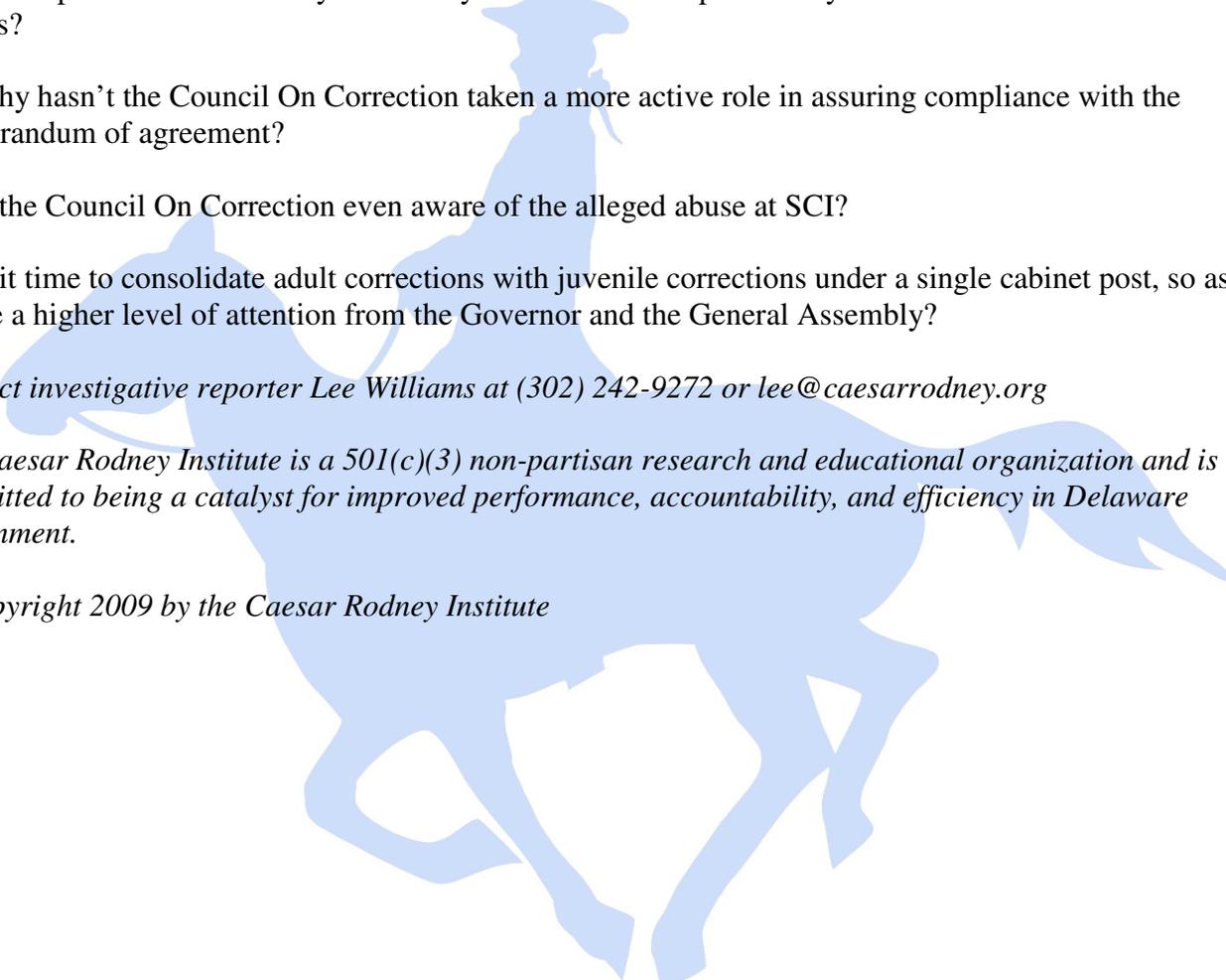
By Lee Williams



**Delaware Department of Correction Commissioner Carl Danberg has not complied with a FOIA request and refused to comment for this series. Therefore, the Caesar Rodney Institute poses the following questions it had hoped Danberg would address:**

1. Why are there rogue guards at the Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) who are physically abusing inmates?
2. How many taxpayer dollars has the state paid to inmates or their survivors because of civil suits spawned by abuse by guards, since you were sworn in as commissioner?
3. Why is the Department of Correction's inmate health care so far below generally accepted medical standards?
4. How many taxpayer dollars has the state paid to inmates or their survivors because of civil suits spawned by your department's poor-quality inmate health care, since you were sworn in as commissioner?
5. Why haven't you fired the DOC's current medical vendor Correctional Medical Services?
6. Why does SCI have a reputation as a facility where inmates are abused by guards?
7. Why do guards admit there are cover-ups at SCI involving use of force?

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8. Why does SCI have a reputation for using more pepper spray than other facilities?
  9. Why do guards at SCI say they're free to use pepper spray on inmates with no subsequent use-of-force review?
  10. Why haven't your guards received the mental health training – training in how to spot an inmate who is suffering from mental illness – which you promised to provide when you signed the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice?
  11. Why haven't your guards received training in how to recognize and deal with inmates who may be withdrawing from drugs or alcohol – training you promised to provide when you signed the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice?
  12. Why haven't your guards received training in suicide prevention – training you promised to provide when you signed the settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice?
  13. Why was David Sully beaten so severely by your guards at SCI on June 27?
  14. What could Mr. Sully have done to merit this type of beating?
  15. Are your guards permitted to deliver repeated, closed-fist blows to the face and head?
  16. As an experienced attorney and the former Attorney General of the State of Delaware, wouldn't you agree that a guard using a closed fist to strike an inmate who is not actively fighting a guard or another person is using unlawful force not justified under Section 468(5) of Delaware's Criminal Code governing the use of force by wardens and guards and is therefore actionable under Delaware's criminal statutes as well as in our civil courts?
  17. Is the use of closed fist strikes to the head and/or face ever justifiable for the purpose of simply enforcing prison rules where self defense or defense of others is not an issue?
  18. Why do guards at SCI say they're able to pepper-spray inmates who refuse to be quiet?
  19. Why would guards at SCI say there is no administrative review after they use pepper spray on inmates?
  20. Why would a registered nurse who worked at SCI say she personally observed physical injuries on inmates – on average of twice a month – that the inmates told her were caused by your guards?
  21. Why do your guards say there are no basic use-of-force guidelines in place at SCI?
  22. Why would your guards say there is a “blue wall of silence” at SCI, whereby guards are afraid to come forward and report their colleagues who abuse inmates?
  23. Why did the Delaware Prison Monitor say in his January 2009 report that his is “still concerned over a lack of stable and effective leadership” by the vendor providing medical care in your prisons – Correctional Medical Services (CMS)?
  24. Are you satisfied with CMS' performance?

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25. Do you read the letters sent to your office by inmates and their families, complaining of poor medical care, beatings by guards and the outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria at the Gander Hill prison?
26. Why haven't you requested an outside agency like the FBI to investigate inmate abuse by guards at SCI?
27. Why does Delaware have to rely on trial attorneys and lawsuits to enforce policies within your department?
28. How much has the State of Delaware and/or the Department of Corrections paid to Delaware Prison Monitor Joshua Martin?
29. What specific actions have you and/or your staff taken to proactively address the issues in the monitor's reports?
30. Why hasn't the Council On Correction taken a more active role in assuring compliance with the memorandum of agreement?
31. Is the Council On Correction even aware of the alleged abuse at SCI?
32. Is it time to consolidate adult corrections with juvenile corrections under a single cabinet post, so as to ensure a higher level of attention from the Governor and the General Assembly?

*Contact investigative reporter Lee Williams at (302) 242-9272 or [lee@caesarrodney.org](mailto:lee@caesarrodney.org)*

*The Caesar Rodney Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan research and educational organization and is committed to being a catalyst for improved performance, accountability, and efficiency in Delaware government.*

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