

# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY



**RICH FITZGERALD**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## SHUMAN JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

7150 HIGHLAND DRIVE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15206  
PHONE (412) 661-6806  
FAX (412) 661-6471  
WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

**EARL HILL**  
DIRECTOR

February 10, 2015

Dear County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter to nominate Ms. Gerry Florida for the Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs Best Practice Award. As Director of the Shuman Detention Center, I have witnessed firsthand, Ms. Florida's exceptional commitment to improving the lives of residents and families she serves. Her work is highly creative, technically profound and demonstrates deep thinking in her work with high risk youth.

Ms. Florida's philosophy that incorporates recycled materials is novel and potentially paradigm shifting. The concept of self-discovery is essential for "self-reinvention" particularly after loss, trauma, and tragedy.

The Jewelry Arts Program is an innovative and creative concept that provides immediate gratification for success with residents who would not otherwise benefit from this "cutting edge" thinking. Ms. Florida is the most creative and productive individual I know and this program shows her originality and ability to reach high risk youth.

Ms. Florida is the ideal nominee for receiving the Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs Best Practice Award. She is a magnificent choice to represent not only every detention center in Pennsylvania, but also, throughout the United States.

If you need additional information, or seek further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Hill".

Earl Hill  
Director  
Shuman Detention Center