

INTRODUCTION

As part of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department Oversight Board ("SDOB") scope and responsibilities noted in Charter Section. 4.137 charter (noted below), the SDOB shall:

- (4) *Conduct community outreach and receive community input regarding SFSD operations and jail conditions, by holding public meetings and soliciting input from persons incarcerated in the City and County.*
- (5) *Prepare and submit a quarterly report to the Sheriff and Board of Supervisors regarding the SDOB evaluations and outreach, and OIG reports submitted to SDOB.*

SUMMARY

On September 16th 2023, Board members William Palmer & Jayson Wechter visited San Francisco County Jail #3, the largest jail facility. As established in the charter and approved by the public, Board members solicited direct input from the incarcerated population in regard to current Jail Operations and Conditions. They also asked for input on the qualifications for the SFSD Inspector General.

JAIL OPERATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Our 9/16/2023 summary below is only a snapshot of a *single* day visiting *one* county jail. Our goal is to continue soliciting input from the incarcerated population as part of our Charter responsibilities by making additional visits to jail facilities.

- **Retaliation and Mistreatment by Staff**
 - ❖ Multiple inmates spoke about being retaliated against for filing grievances by being harassed, strip-searched, and losing visiting privileges. One inmate said, "Grievances usually backfire." Deputies are not held accountable.
 - ❖ One inmate said, "They don't look into issues with grievances. It says 'Resolved at this level.'" New deputies will say they don't have grievance forms to give you when you can see there are grievance forms at the deputy's station.
 - ❖ Filing any grievance against a POD Deputy goes directly to that POD Deputy, not to Supervisor. The POD deputy will deny the grievance and it doesn't go any further up the chain.
 - ❖ Post-Fight Club scandal, deputies cannot be so violent with inmates so now do passive aggressive actions.
 - ❖ Several inmates spoke about being physically abused by deputies.
 - ❖ Asian deputies retaliate against inmates accused of crimes against Asians.
- **Lack of access to fresh air/sunlight for inmates**

- **Shut-down Policy:** when there's an issue in one pod, there's a jail-wide shut down, they deny phone rights, walk-time to everyone.
- **Post-COVID Visit Policy:** Before Covid, they had one visit per week. Since Covid, only one visit/month. Face-to-face visits must be logged in at 8:59 a.m. to reserve a visit, closed at 9:00 a.m.
- **Significant Delays to Medical Pod/Hospital for Inmate Medical Needs.** Several inmates spoke about a lack of response or significant delays in response to their medical issues, some of which were serious.
- **Phone Policy:** Inmates are only able to use phones between 8:00am - 10:00am and 5:00pm - 9:00pm, making phone calls to attorneys (who are usually available during business hours, 10:30 am to 5:00 pm) more difficult.
- **Poor Hygiene Due to Unsanitary Laundry.** Multiple inmates complained about this issue and stated that grievances due to it have been ignored:
 - Clothes not returned clean (started May-June 2023)
 - Clothes are not properly washed. Seems like they don't use detergent. Inmates have to wash their clothes themselves in the sinks in their cells.
 - Used to get 2 new sets of clothes when arrived at jail; now get used clothing – worried about scabies/staph from homeless
 - Staff doesn't switch our blankets - supposed to do this every 4 or 6 weeks.
- **Mishandling of Mail Delivery Process.**
 - Deputies gave mail to the wrong inmate, or the mail might go to the wrong pod.
- **Better Food Choices.** Too much starch with current food options which can be harmful for persons sensitive to high cholesterol or diabetes. For example, in the morning, inmates only get two cakes (which are very high in sugar).
- **Increased Access to Educational Apps.** "Life After Next" was removed from their tablets. They don't have access to tablet apps that inmates in other counties have.
- **No access to board games despite there being a room full of them.** Staff says there's only one deputy who is available to get board games from this room.

INSPECTOR GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Inspector General should "know how it feels to be in here" as an incarcerated person, with some familiarity with the jail system. The Inspector General should not be someone connected with the Sheriff's Department.