



Expo Stl Summary of Detainees Testimony concerning the living conditions at the Criminal Justice Center.

First let me say that Expo has heard a wide range of concerns from detainees and their families. They have testified that they have not received their legal mail after the uprising, they aren't allowed to take showers for days, their medical requests are not being answered, they are forced to wear the same clothing that they were pepper sprayed in. The reports below and the accompanied audio files are in reference to the three most common and consistent complaints held by the detainees at the Criminal Justice Center.

1. Concerns over lack of Covid protocols

Concerning Covid 19 protocols even without the overpopulation at the Justice Center the detainees are unable to physically distance themselves from one another. The CDC guidelines are intended to work in unison. Wearing a mask, socially distancing and hand washing. For the city to shut down bars and restaurants and give special guidance to metro buses, trains and gyms yet has no serious plan to protect these detainees who can not physically distance is proof of the stance the city and CJC Management has towards the safety of the detainees.

2. Mental anguish over lack of covid 19 protocols, lack of visits and overall inhumane conditions.

One of the things you hear from almost all of the detainees is desperation and mental anguish. Most of the calls end in a plea for help. Along with the threat of catching the virus, they have stopped court proceedings. Remember these are detainees and everyone of them is supposed to have access to a speedy trial. But the courts have completely stopped for them. No visits. Running water sometimes, other times they are forced to defecate in dry toilets. They barely receive any recreation despite the fact that their living area can be filled with chemical irritants. The stories told by the detainees describe a warzone. They have had three disturbances in a matter of months. Any normal human being would be feeling a measure of mental strain and stress.

3. Jail staff actively abusing detainees, willfully ignoring the medical needs of detainees and displaying an overall lack of concern for detainees.

Inmate Lovers? That verbiage is said to be used by corrections staff towards anyone that sides with or advocates on the behalf of detainees. There definitely needs to be a change in staff and a change in culture. We have multiple testimonies of staff spraying people unprovoked with mace. We have heard multiple testimony that people are having adverse effects from the mace such as constant headaches, nose bleeds and respiratory issues. We have also heard multiple testimonies of detainees having seizures shortly after being pepper sprayed. If the roles of jail staff and management is to keep the jail under control they are failing. If their job is to keep the prisons safe they are failing. Shuttling detainees back and forth from bad to worst that's just further abuse of their Human rights. Changes need to be made. It's easy to see how the adversarial nature of the CJC can turn into bullying and abuse and even death.

- We want every inmate at the CjC to have a full medical check up and an audit of all the medical requests that have been submitted over the last year.
- We want reprimand or termination for the correctional officers that abuse detainees
- We want regular visits to resume
- We want legal proceedings to resume
- We want a long term plan for a permanent solution for the two jail system
- We would like to address the use of the workhouse. There is no need for two city jails. The overpopulation of CJC can be resolved with the return of court appearances.
- We want detainees treated as human beings in accordance with their civil rights
- We would also ask that there be a real understanding of the mindset that one must possess to go to the extremes which occurred on February 6th. The actions that were taken were out of desperation and as a last measure to address issues that have been taking place over the last year.
- We would like for the detainees and their family members to be heard