

GRAND JURY REPORT – JULY 2018 TERM

INVESTIGATION INTO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

On September 26, 2018, a number of members of the July 2018 Anne Arundel County grand jury visited the Jennifer Road Detention Center in Annapolis, MD and the Ordnance Road Correctional Center in Glen Burnie, MD. These visits and the accompanying report fulfill one aspect of the juror's duties during our tenure of service.

Jennifer Road Detention Center

The Jennifer Road Detention Center (JRDC) is a maximum-security intake and pre-trial detention facility for individuals entering the county and state penal system. It houses those who cannot make bail or require specialized housing due to medical, mental health, and behavioral problems, and also accommodates juvenile delinquents. The center was initially constructed in the 1970's but has received various upgrades and expansions throughout the ensuing decades. It currently has a capacity for 635 inmates with an average daily population of 404.

After arriving and passing through the visitor's security checkpoint, members of the grand jury were escorted to the facility's conference room where they were greeted by Mr. Terry Kokolis, Superintendent of the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities, and Mr. Michael Borgese, Correctional Facility Administrator for the Jennifer Road Detention Center. Following brief introductions, Mr. Kokolis spent approximately 40 minutes discussing the information in the slide deck brief titled "Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities – September 2018." Mr. Kokolis started the brief by describing the Department's mission and vision statements and organizational structure; he proceeded to explain the Department's excellent rating of 100 percent compliance in both state and nationwide standards and certification requirements; and provided an overview of the operating budget for fiscal year 2019 and the rigorous training curriculum provided to criminal justice professionals. The brief then proceeded to describe the current status of the county facilities, including the demographic

composition of the current inmate population, and the obligations to protect both the citizens of the county as well as the inmates. The brief culminated with a description of the security operations and the diversity of programs offered by the Department such as: the work release, outside work and community service programs; and the house arrest and weekender programs. Mr. Kokolis took the opportunity to emphasize the Department's important and increasing role in evaluating the medical condition of incoming prisoners, especially relating to possible drug and alcohol addictions, physical injuries, mental and behavioral problems, and communicable sexually transmitted diseases or STDs. It was stressed the importance for the county to quickly identify these conditions to avoid potential and expensive liability disputes.

Immediately following the brief, members of the grand jury initiated a tour of the detention center by following a typical processing of an incoming prisoner starting with the "intake" process, where new inmates are medically and physical screened and changed into prison uniforms. This initial assessment assists in determining how prisoners are going to be segregated, which could include isolation and scheduled checks by security staff. Here a nurse practitioner is always on duty to see to and evaluate the medical needs of the inmates. Following the tour of the Intake Center, the jurors transitioned to various areas showing the teleconference rooms used to meet with defense lawyers and a judge to discuss the particulars of their case. It was emphasized that this technology saves the county both time and money by eliminating the need to securely transport the prisoners to the courthouse, while ensuring the right to a due process is maintained. The tour continued through the exterior of the kitchen, the library, and the maximum-security area including the holding cell for protected inmates and a recreational center. The tour ended in a maximum-security prison guard work station where the on-duty officer demonstrated the video surveillance for the entire wing.

The overall appearance of the facility was clean and well organized. The leadership and staff were courteous and highly professional throughout the tour.

Ordnance Road Correctional Center

Following the inspection of the Jennifer Road Detention Center, members of the grand jury arrived at the Ordnance Road Correctional Center (ORCC). Built in 1998, the correctional facility is rated as a medium security facility with a capacity for 540 inmates and an average daily population of 379. The facility houses inmates serving a sentence not exceeding 18 months; inmates with longer sentences are housed in larger state facilities. The facility has nine dormitory housing wings that can accommodate 60 inmates per wing.

After passing through the security checkpoint, the visiting members met in a conference room with Mr. William Martin, Correctional Facility Administrator, and the Chief of Security. After handing out a hard copy of the “Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities – September 2018” brief, Mr. Martin proceeded to provide a briefing of the correctional facility. During the informative exchange, a discussion ensued about the increasing use of heroin and other opiate drugs throughout the county. It was pointed out that even though many counseling programs provide some initial success for individual addicts, statistical data has yet to reveal that it provides a long-term solution to their problem. Mr. Martin provided an outline of the facility’s methadone treatment program. This program is one of two such programs currently available in the state and is coordinated very closely by Maryland’s Department of Health. With an average length of stay of 81 days the program is achieving a satisfactory initial success rate. It was noted that approximately 85 percent show up for the initial post-incarceration treatment follow-up program. A thorough evaluation of the program should be pursued to ascertain if this statistical success rate lasts since it seems to provide a better and less costly method of addiction treatment. Currently, the correctional facility oversees approximately 64 offenders on the house arrest program being monitored via electronic devices. The last portion of the brief was comprised of an overview of the inmate education program where it was pointed out that 957 inmates have obtained their General Educational Development diplomas or GEDs, and over 65 inmates have achieved a Computer Literacy Certification for the workforce.

Following the informative exchange, members of the grand jury were given a comprehensive tour of the correctional facility. The tour included an inspection of the female

housing wing in addition to the library and its law annex, health facility, laundry room, and indoor recreational areas. During their period of incarceration, the inmates are obligated to assist with the facility's maintenance and upkeep including, cleaning, painting, food services and laundry. In addition, the center provides extensive educational programs for those inmates that need or request to pursue either academic or vocational training. These educational opportunities are designed to provide better employment prospects once the inmates are released back to society. The tour concluded at the Intake Center, where it was explained that besides overloading the staff, the weekender incarceration program results in a source of ingress of contraband material into the facility.

Especially noteworthy, the correctional facility is making use of a previously empty housing wing to serve exclusively as a detention center for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) immigration detainees. This collaborative program with the federal government has resulted in a source of income for the county. Mr. Martin was emphatic in pointing out that regardless of the current political climate and public attitude towards the nation's immigration policies, the detention center's focus is to provide the population of immigration detainees with a segregated, hygienic and secured facility.

The overall appearance of the facility was clean and well organized. The leadership and staff were courteous and highly professional throughout the tour and their efforts were appreciated by the visiting members of the grand jury.

Overall specific observations noted by grand jury members:

- It was noted the weekender incarceration program has yielded an unintended problem with the ingress of contraband material into the Ordinance Road Correctional Center.
- The biggest management challenge facing the Department is the recruitment, training and retention of security operations personnel. Members of the grand jury were encouraged to attend and notify friends, families and colleagues about a Detention Officer Hiring Event scheduled for October 27, 2018 at the Ordinance Road Correctional Center.

- Grand jury members were highly impressed with the professionalism, candor and devotion to duty exhibited by the Superintendent, the Administrators and staff members at both county facilities. It was emphasized in more than one occasion that since up to 70 percent of the inmate population is comprised of county residents, the Department wants to provide services that translate into reduced recidivism and successful long-term reintegration through a sound re-entry program.
- Members of the grand jury felt safe at all times and got to interact with several staff members and a few prisoners during their tour of the two facilities.