



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell*

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December 12, 2023

The Honorable Michael Schmidt  
Multnomah County District Attorney's Office  
1200 SW First Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: 2023 Corrections Grand Jury Report

District Attorney Schmidt,

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has received the 2023 Corrections Grand Jury Report. I want to personally thank the Grand Jurors and your staff for the hard work that went into this year's review of our Multnomah County correctional facilities.

As an agency, we value the meaningful work by the Corrections Grand Jury, as they review the conditions and management of correctional facilities throughout Multnomah County. This oversight review process provides transparency and accountability into critical jail operations. It's important that the Grand Jurors took time to hear the perspectives of both our members and the adults in our custody. These voices add value to the overall understanding of the institutional environment.

As Sheriff, the work of equity and inclusion is a priority for me. I whole heartedly agree that "addressing workplace culture has the potential to increase retention and make MCSO positions attractive to a more diverse pool of candidates." I am committed to continuing the partnership with the County on the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan (WESP) initiatives and investing in our DEI practitioners in order to infuse equity and empowerment throughout our philosophy and policies.

I appreciate that the Grand Jury took notice of our efforts to recruit and hire corrections professionals. We are committed to bringing dedicated people to our agency.

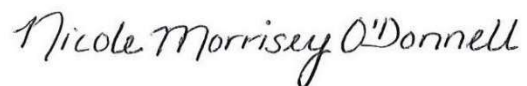
Despite our robust recruitment efforts, we still have significant staffing strain that requires the use of overtime. The Grand Jury noted an emphasis on completing a staffing study, also referred to as a post factor study, as well as recommending an evaluation of the use of overtime to ensure we have the proper structure in place to best utilize our resources.

As we have mentioned in past report responses, managing correctional operations is challenging work in the best of circumstances as we try to provide the necessary resources and services to safely and securely house people with acute needs. Individuals incarcerated today are increasingly vulnerable and unstable, and many enter corrections with unmet needs related to mental health and substance use.

We are committed to a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit in the near future to reassess our policies and procedures that protect individuals in our facilities. We also agree that greater use of technology, such as tablets, would be beneficial within our settings, and that further review of housing designations is performed to ensure we have the proper amount of housing dedicated to critical medical, mental health, and protective needs.

We appreciate you and your team's dedication to this community process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell".

Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell  
Sheriff

CC: Chair Vega Pederson, Commissioner Meieran, Commissioner Beason, Commissioner Brim-Edwards, Commissioner Stegmann, Chief Deputy Reardon, Chief Deputy Alexander, Captain Denise Diamond