

Captioning Transcript of Government Oversight and Audit Committee Meeting - October 18, 2022

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Okay, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to convene the regular meeting of the government audit and oversight committee. Uh, current time is 5:07 PM. My name is Anthony. I am the vice chair of this committee.

The chair person, a councilman has an excused absence, so I'll be sharing the meeting joining us. meeting joining us

We have a councilman and Scott Reed councilman Paul McKinney councilman Amy Hilton Stewart council and Cindy. Uh.

And then in chambers, we have a councilman president David James counsel mark, Fox and counseling. Marcus Winkler. Um.

This quick housekeeping we are going to item number 10 on the agenda is being held. We already tabled that. And so, unless it's voted onto unstable, that's going to stay tabled until early 2023 item.

Number 9 is being held at the request of the sponsor. Um, although I do anticipate us debating and potentially voting on that for the next meeting as a heads up. Uh, we're going to go through all the appointments, uh, expeditiously but thoroughly.

And then. but thoroughly and then

As soon as we're done with the appointments, we're going to turn it over to the special discussion with Mr. buyer as a quick heads up. Uh, I have a, uh, an engagement that I must leave at 6:30 PM at that time.

And without objection, I will be turning over the administration of the meeting to councilman Marcus Winkler, who will facilitate any additional Q and a that's needed at that time. time

With that said, we're going to start with calling item number 2, AP 10182ws appointment of William Shrek to the ethics commission term expires June 20th 2024. may I have a motion in a 2nd place?

Motion by Council Winkler 2nd by 2nd, read.

2nd, by counsel, being read, uh, the item is before us.

"Althea Jackson"

Up the Jackson from mayor fisher's office, we are asking for the appointment of William Shrek to the ethics commission.

Everybody knows. Mr. Shrek there's not much I can say about him, we needed to have a position. This board is very important. Uh, we had a resignation we wanted to fill the seat we wanted to get it feel pretty quickly.

We knew that missed. Mr. Shrek could step into this position and do a great job.

He is on the call today to reintroduce himself to everybody and you can ask him any questions you may have.

Terrific. Mister. Shrek. Would you like to make any comments about your point today?

Is muted.

"William Schreck"

Thank you.

You hear me well, we can, we can hear you now, but it's a little jumbled, but go ahead.

I will speak up louder. I would consider it.

It's all except me to be on this commission.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Hey, thank you. Mr. Frank. Right?

I do not see, I do not see anybody in the queue. Nobody's in the group.

Me. Okay. Uh, with that, this resolution requiring a voice vote, all

those in favor of Mr. please indicate by saying, aye aye aye opposed.

You guys have it and this will go to the consent calendar. Thank you.

Mister Shrek.

"William Schreck"

Thank you. Good.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Thank you item number 3. AP, 1.

Appointment of Tammy Henderson to the human relations commission

enforcement board term expires September 32,025 motion indecision Fox

motion by councilman Fox. 2nd. Bye.

A, 2nd here, uh, this move probably moved and seconded. Mr.

"Althea Jackson"

They are asking for the appointment of Tammy Henderson to the human

relations commission enforcement board miss Henderson is a longtime

resident of Louisville, Jefferson County.

She is her position at her current employer fits right? In with the

mission of the human relationship is a diversity and inclusion business

partner. She is at a district 20.

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she is on the call tonight. So I would like for MS Henderson to

introduce.

Herself and tell why she would like to be on this board miss Henderson.

"Tammye Henderson"

Hello, I'm Tammy Henderson. Thank you at the Jackson for, uh, making this

possible. I am very interested in being a part of this board, because of

the work I do on my day to day, which is diversity, equity inclusion.

So, I do, um, really feel that I can add value to this board. And, um,

I'm passionate about the work of, you know, equality and providing voices

for, um, diverse communities.

So I'm excited about the opportunity to.

On this board.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Excellent Thank you. I do not see anybody currently in the queue. Uh, this is a resolution requiring a voice vote, all those in favor of the, the appointment of MS Henderson please indicate by saying aye aye aye. Aye. Aye aye.

Any opposed the eyes habit miss Anderson. Thank you very much. And congratulations on your appointment.

Thank you next item number 4 AP 1010822dw. Oh, just a piece of housekeeping this meeting is being held pursuant to 61.826 and council rule 5 a, a number for AP 101. 802. DWA appointment of David to the river Port Authority board term expires July 31st. 2021st 2024.

kind of a motion in the 2nd place. to the river port authority board term expires july thirty first twenty twenty first two thousand and twenty four kind of a motion in the second place

Motion by Council Winkler by council in Fox, uh, this item probably before it's mistakes.

"Althea Jackson"

So, we are asking for the appointment Mr to the report board. We had a vacancy due to a member rolling off, and that we could not reappointed Mr. field. Um.

I need we needed some specialty, um, expertise, and he filled that space. Uh, he is a long time resident of loyal Jefferson County.

He is a retired attorney, and he is here to answer any questions that you may have.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Terrific. Mr. if you could introduce yourself for the record and feel free to make any comments about your nominations.

"Dave Waskey"

My name is Dave olskey. I recently met with.

Mister GIBSON, the executive director of the report we talked for about an hour.

Half subsequent to that, you sent me various documents that are in the public domain review.

and i think with my public accounting background and then

My legal background in the public sector, and also in the private sector for 20 years with a national company that I could be of assistance to him and it looked like it'd be a challenging reporting experience.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Perfect the only thing I would ask Mr. in your appointment here. Um, I've done some work meeting with both some of the key vendors as well as the report, uh, board or excuse me the report, uh, executive director and entity.

It hasn't been always the best relationship between those 2 groups

"Dave Waskey"

that was 1 of the things we discussed.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Thank you.

And I, I think there's, there's been some movement in the right direction over the past maybe a couple years, which has been encouraging.

Um, but whatever you can do to continue moving that forward and ensure that the river Port Authority generally is thinking is forward thinking and it's being maximize because I'm not convinced it's being maximized also as, as an economic.

For our community, so just something to think about in your nomination. Yeah, thank you. Thank you very much. I don't see any other persons in the queue. This is a resolution requiring a voice vote all those in favor. Please indicate by saying hi.

Aye, aye any opposed.

The and Mr Ross keys nomination will go on the consent calendar. Next item is number 5101802reappointmentof DeLorean Malone to the revenue commission term expires October. 1st 2025. can I have a motion in a 2nd please.

thousand and twenty five can i have a motion in a second please
Motion council Winkler 2nd grainy 2nd council in the crane properly moved and before us. Mr.

"Althea Jackson"

You are asking for the reappointment of DeLorean Malone he serves as a person at large on the revenue commission authority. He is a long time resident. He is at a district 17.

he was unable to be a part of it participate in this meeting, but we would like to move forward with his appointment.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Perfect, uh, I do not see anyone in the queue on this nomination. Just give it a 2nd.

Look around no questions regarding this, this re, appointment. Uh, this is a resolution requiring a voice vote all of those in favor of the reappointment of delivery and Malone indicate by saying, aye, aye, any opposed.

The ice habit, and this nomination will go to the consent calendar item. Number 610182ere appointment of Elmer Lucille Allen to the commission on public art cobra board term expires October 24th. 2026 may have a motion. The 2nd place.

twenty four th two thousand and twenty six may have a motion the second place

Motion 2nd, counseling them a crazy. Probably moved to before Mr. Jackson.

"Althea Jackson"

This next person needs no introduction. Everybody on earth knows her but, uh, for the record, uh, we are asking for the reappointment of miss Elmer, Lucille Allen she is a long time resident of loyal Jefferson County.

She is a community active as she is everywhere. And so she is at a district 1, but we would like to move forward with her re appointment. She is here tonight to introduce herself to those that may not know her miss.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

You can introduce yourself for the record again. I don't know if it's necessary, but if you could for formality purposes and feel free to make it Melissa Allen.

"Elmer Lucille Allen"

A resident of law of Kentucky I'm 91 years old and I'm able to stay in here and to serve the community. Uh, I wish to thank everyone that has supported me and I just say.

Thank God that I'm here and I'm looking at everybody and everybody's smiling and I have been, I was I retired from brown, flown in 997 as a chemist, and then went back to school to get a masters in art and I still take an art class in universal law, in fact, I'm coming from University of global here today. Thanks. Very much for pointing me to this office.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Well, we're all smiling because we all hope that we can have your longevity your passion. your longevity your passion And everything you do for the community, so we, we love it. Yeah, so I see counsel and is in the queue and may have a question or statement.

"Committee Member McCraney"

Thank you I don't have a question. I would never question this lady right here other than anything of wise counsel. I love her. She is an asset to our community.

I have known her for a very, very long time, and I have always cherished our friendship and I can tell you at 91 she gets around more than I do and I would just say to everyone that is listening. We have a. a Among us, and that is miss Emma Lucille and thank you for your service to our community and all the things that you do to bless our community, particularly with your brain. Your passion and your art, thank you.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Yeah, I don't know how many chemist artists they are in this community, but very unique. Um, any, I don't see anybody else in the queue. This is

a resolution requiring a voice vote all those in favor. Please say, aye aye.

Any opposed have it, uh, and this will move to the consent calendar.

Thank you very much. Uh, the next item is item number

7101802reappointmentofandrewcousins to.

Oh, yes, right. Sorry miss Jackson.

"Althea Jackson"

So I would like to well, I either 1. I don't know, which 1, I may either need to hold it or pull it till either. 1. can I do either? 1 W. W why don't we as a recommendation?

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Why don't we hold it? And then we can make a decision, because we probably got re file and all this stuff

"Althea Jackson"

kind of bring him back.

I just can't do it today.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Okay. Then, then, what, why don't we, at the request of the administration and myself, as the vice chair? We will agree to hold this for today. Perfect.

And then item number 8, uh, then 101800reappointment of Dr Christopher rights. I hope I pronounce that properly. I apologize if I did not to the commission on public art term expires October 24th.

2026 may have a motion the 2nd place motion councilman Winkler. and twenty six may have a motion the second place motion councilman winkler 2nd, by councilman Fox, uh, probably moved and seconded. Mr.

"Althea Jackson"

We are asking for the reappointment of Christopher rates to the copier board. He has been in Louisville, Kentucky for about 6 years. He is a professor, uh, with the University of Louisville he is at a district 7. he is currently the chair of copo. He is doing a fantastic job, and we would like, for his reappointment, he is participating on the call this evening. So, Chris, would you please introduce yourself?

"Chris Reitz"

Hello uh, thanks you did pronounce my name correctly and I'm, I'm thrilled, uh, except for the fact that I have to follow miss Lucille Allen, which is entirely unfair. I'm remote because my, my children brought rsp home from daycare, but I'm, I'm here in.

We've done a lot of great work over the last 4 years and, uh, that I've been serving and, um, I, I hope to be able to continue that work. Thank you.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Thank you very much Docker and who knew that kids bring home diseases from daycare and never heard of such a thing? Well, good luck to you. I do not see anybody else in the queue for question or comment.

Uh, this is a resolution requiring a voice vote, all those in favor please indicate by saying, aye.

Aye, aye any opposed you guys have and this will go to the consent calendar. Thank you. Doctor.

Um, okay, now we are going to move to the special discussion, uh, just to tee this up real quick. Uh, you know, as a history, quick background.

Obviously, we voted, uh, several months ago to initiate an investigation of, uh, the activity and, and, uh, the Department of corrections. There's been a new director, uh, since that time.

Um, so, uh, we then voted to have, uh, Mr buyer and his extensive background.

Uh, conduct that investigation to be super clear with my colleagues. This is an interim report out.

Uh, I like doing those because there could be a line of questioning or information that comes out that could, um, indicate something that needs to happen in the latter part of of the investigation. Uh, but again, this is an interim report out.

Uh, Mr buyer is going to present the information, uh, that he's seen, uh, to date. Uh, there will be a final report right now. We're tracking to just after the new year, um, to have a final.

A written report, just like we did with a torque investigation and a final report out at that time. Uh, but this will be a great opportunity here, um, from Mr. buyer and what he's done. So far and to give everybody the opportunity to ask some questions. Uh, Mr buyer with that.

The floor is yours. Thank you, sir.

"David Beyer"

Thank you Mr. chairman it's, um, it's a logistical thing if you could intrude if you could introduce yourself for the record and then start, I'm David buyer hired by the metro council to do an investigation into the desks that the Louisville metro corrections facility.

i'm very pleased to be here tonight uh i have

Covered a lot of ground in the past several months and I'm going to try to give you an overview of my findings and some recommendations.

And quite frankly, there are a lot of.

Moving parts to this investigation as well as the operation of the facility.

Before we begin, I want to do a couple of things 1st of all. I would like to recognize some people. Uh, I've had.

Great assistance on this project from a variety of people to include Dennis hipper. Who's the assistant director of the southern police in students? At the University of Louisville? Dennis was.

in charge of the washoe county jail in reno nevada for ten years that facility was built after some litigation about its

Predecessors status, and, um.

Became a model for the country in terms of direct supervision methods, which I'll talk a little bit more about. He's provided great assistance.

To me. Also had 2 forensic nurses help me with the medical piece.

deidra Sanders and Sally surgeon. They reviewed all the death cases. The medical records, they've also along with me, talk to all the nurses in the medical facility review the policies and procedures of the medical staff here and.

The extensive research to help guide my decisions and recommendations. So my thanks to them.

Also, I do want to recognize director Collins.

From the outset of this investigation I met with him, and he pledged total cooperation and he has fulfilled that. Totally he has been the constant professional gentleman. Anytime I needed anything. He got it for me right away.

His executive staff was similarly a.

Very helpful. I truly appreciate all that. He's done thus far.

And later, I will discuss many of the things that he's done in the short time that he's been here.

I've got 2 other people I want to recognize so.

Sergeant Tim danger from metro corrections. He is their policy and procedures, man. He was my go to man to get policies procedures, reports, documents.

i had sent an email to him and before the end of the day i'd have the information so he he was super helpful and super knowledgeable about the functions of the jail assisted me when i toured the jail on many occasions and

I truly appreciate his help and finally Amy has, uh.

Again, from the beginning of this investigation, she pledged true cooperation and in the.

Mayor's cooperation and she's been awesome. Anytime I needed something from her. She got it from me right away.

She helped me schedule an interview with the mayor and deputy mayor before tonight their schedules were full, but Amy worked magic. So, I could speak to both of them last week, which is very helpful.

And lastly I want to.

Personally, recognize all the corrections employees that I've interacted with over the past several months. The people that then cooperated the employees that agreed to interviews.

And their candid viewpoint is tremendously helped me and guided me on finding out. Actually what is, uh.

Working at the jail and what is not and I truly appreciate their help.

The 1 thing that really stood out to me throughout the past several months is the passion of many of the employees at the jail and their dedication to their job. And.

Their morale has increased dramatically under director Collins.

And it amazed me if those of you who have not toured the jail, you need to do that. It's an eye opening experienced. I quite frankly don't know how these.

Dedicated employees come to work every day and work in the facility that they have to work in.

Many instances it's dark, dingy, poor lighting. No natural light.

It is a place that I would not want to work so I commend all the people for their passion and dedication because they do a tremendous job.

As I mentioned director Collins has been in office for 6 months.

He has implemented many changes many changes that should have been done years ago.

While he was here as a major, he and another major, he worked with discussed many changes that they'd like to see made at the jail, given the opportunity. Well, now he has that opportunity and he's implemented many of those changes that he thought should have been done. Years ago he is corrected.

Many of the deficiencies that are highlighted in the guy report. As I think all of, you know, the guy report was initiated by the mayor's office, uh, produced a 20 page report.

The individual Gary rainy who produced the report.

I came to Louisville spent 3 days here and produced a report that. Identified some shortcomings and.

It was a snapshot of corrections at that time and it did not capture.

All of the changes that have been implemented under director Collins to include the morale improvement. And director Collins I know.

Has given you all a list of all of his accomplishments in the short time that he's been here in many of those, uh, again should have been done.

Years ago I'm not sure why they weren't walking around the jail. Uh.

I visited the jail on 4 occasions. I've been to the corrections department on many occasions meeting with different people to interview with them, but it.

On all 4 visits. I walked through the jail.

I've been from the top to the bottom, all the nooks and crannies of the jail facilities and along my way,

I met with many corrections employees and gained an insight into what they did and some of the shortcomings that they had here at the jail. Um. 1 of the things that was voiced to me in many occasions is that morale was at a very, very low Ed prior to director Collins coming on board and. For the most part those that I met with stated that morale had increased dramatically, because they believe that he is supportive of their needs and trying to correct some problems.

And I'll touch upon many of those things as we go forward. I want to give you just a quick capsule of what I've done as I mentioned. I've been to the jail and 4 occasions and I did a very, very thorough analysis of. All of a facility from the salary port, the booking area intake, kitchen, maintenance.

Uh, I've been everywhere I've reviewed.

The investigations regarding the deaths that's what prompted this investigation. I've interviewed.

Both the current director and the prior director I met with Mr. Clark and his executive staff independently separately spoke to them about their thoughts when they were here. I've met with director Collins, and his executive staff.

Gained their insight into things I've met with the president and members of the received their insight into how things were working, how they are working. Now.

I've interviewed the senior well path medical supervisors in nursing staff reviewed many of the medical policies procedures.

Interviewed the mayor and deputy mayor I've had numerous discussions with.

Experts across the country, in terms of management of a jail and jail facilities.

Reviewed the studied the report as well as the guy report.

On Thursday, I'm going to meet with a group of mail inmates and female inmates to gain their insight into their.

Staying here at the jail I think that's an important piece. To garner the knowledge of what that the recipients of the service that we're providing. How they feel about it, so that will be insightful and that will be included in my final report. I also have on my agenda to go back to the training academy to do a little bit deeper dive on things out there. As I mentioned, a director color has been here for 6 years. He inherited woefully inadequate facility with a lot of problems. 1 of the things that he did that I commend him for and I think it's a great addition. I'll talk more about it later, is that he added to the executive staff. Doctor Maria, and she. She's a psychologist I met with her for about 5 hours, and she went through all of our ideas that she wants to implement here to include helping the staff. Looking at the inmate population here in the mental health services that are provided, she was a wealth of information and I commend the director for adding her to as the executive staff. She has the direct input to the director, which I think is very important for that piece of what goes on here. Corrections. The mental health piece is very, very important to what they do here in metro corrections. As I said director Collins has done yeoman's work. In the past 6 months, a lot of what he's done however, I think is, is. Equal to the game whack a mole. Problem happens, you try to knock that out another 1 pops up. He tries to knock that out. There are a lot of things that need to be done here corrections. That I commend him for putting those band AIDS on those problematic areas, but there's a deeper issue going on here at corrections. 1 is the facility. That's a huge huge problem that I'm going to speak to number 2. there are a lot of. Cultural changes that need to be made here at corrections. And there needs to be more implementation of technology in the use of technology. I'm going to shift gears now from my narrative and go into the things that I identified 1st of all leadership. Leadership is, as we know so important to any organization, whether it's corrections, the police department, a basketball team, a football team, you have to have good leadership. You need somebody that leads by example, you need somebody that is inspiring, energetic, passionate, and can lead through adversity. I met with director, Clark and the 1st thing I detected from him, because he's a very nice man. He's an excellent man and everyone I spoke to that knew him were worked with him. That sentiment that he was a very nice man. Many people suggested that he was a great number 2 person and when he had left here, initially and retired, he left with great fanfare and accolades. When he came back. I think people told me that. He wasn't the same as before he left and during his tenures this last 2 years. He had to work through some great adversity here in the community. We had the covid on President unprecedented pandemic.

We had the civil uprising, and those were tough, tough things for him to navigate.

I heard from people that worked with him during that time, period, that there was almost not almost there was a fixation on the covid piece to the exclusion of everything else here at the jail. And.

Corrections 101 ceased functioning here at the jail.

Meaning that the corrections officers didn't go into the jail facilities didn't interface with the, with the inmates.

And neglected a lot of the basic things to keep the jail safe.

And during that time, period corrections took on board a lot of new employees that have operated for 2 years under that hands off.

No basic 101 corrections, which has created some of the problems that we have.

I, when I talked to the mayor about, um.

Is bringing on of director Clarke and, uh.

You know, mirrors credit, he's very loyal to his employees and his leadership team and it and, um.

The mayor said that he recognized that, you know, there were shortcomings.

But he told me that he didn't think that.

We should blame we meaning all of us and myself included should blame director Clark for the problems we were having. He said that, you know, that's unfair.

And to an extent, I agree there are a lot of problems here corrections that need to be addressed.

But as I said, a leader leads University and we were facing tremendous adversity and.

There was a lack of leadership that I detected from all the people I've talked to.

Now, I'm not it is what it is, those are the facts that have been presented to me.

Director Collins has come in and let me just back up for a minute as I mentioned a leader.

All organizations need a good leader football teams. Football coaches are.

Dismissed frequently, because they lacked the passion, the energy to ignite.

Their teams, and I think director colin's has come in with that passion and the ability to ignite the energy here corrections and and I, I see.

Very positive things. So.

Leadership is a very important thing. The other thing that I'm talking to the mayor was mentioned, was that what we're seeing here corrections the suicides, the overdoses.

Is going on across the country. That may be true.

But the Reno, Nevada jail, you know, how many overdoses they had last year.

2 other jails that I contacted.

2, so, this uptick that we have.

I don't think we can blame it on a national problem and I also believe and I think all of us in this room would agree that we don't want to be like everyone else.

We want to be leaders and models for others to emulate.

And we can do that through great leadership from the top down. And again, I think director Collins has that vision to make this jail.

A model for others to emulate now, moving into some of the issues that I looked at and I've got a lot of information here.

The staffing shortage, that's 1 of the things that I kept hearing over and over and over again. And there is a staffing shortage.

Director Clark has made some very good changes. He's brought back retirees.

And he's using those retirees to transport people to doctor's appointments and to the hospital. So that corrections officers here at the jail don't have to leave their post and sit at a hospital for 6 to 8 hours.

It's a tremendous idea. Secondly, he's brought retirees back to be security officers. He's been able to increase.

The number of people here through those programs to close to 20.

And so there's 20 people right out of the shoot that he's been able to create.

However, I think there are other opportunities here and 1 of the opportunities is not going to sit well with some employees. And perhaps the, the.

There are positions at corrections that, in my opinion and other's opinions could be handled by civilians.

Civilians would be less expensive.

Would require less training and I'll give you some examples and some of these were mentioned in the guy report, the maintenance department I went down there there was a sergeant and 4 officers.

And the interesting thing about maintenance was that.

The people that are maintenance, get those jobs by seniority not by.

Talents or skill sets and so if you got the most seniority, but you don't know how to.

Wireless switch or clean out a toilet.

You still go down there and what results that causes corrections you have to have outside contractors come in and so these maintenance people.

Actually, you follow around the contractors and watch them do the work.

My opinion, that's a waste of time resources and skill sets.

I think that needs to be looked at the mail room.

There are initiatives underway that the director has initiated that I think will help tremendously, but for the interim.

What they're doing is scanning the mail 2 ladies in a small office.

Open up every letter on their desks, which, in my opinion is a huge, huge health risk.

At the FBI, all mail coming in the facility was X rayed and they were opened in a negative air chamber where if you open an envelope and a puff of fentanyl comes up,

it gets sucked up into the exhaust fan here. The ladies open it at their desk.

And can you imagine if 1 of those in envelopes a puffer fentanyl came out?

That needs to stop right away.

And there are systems, and I think the director's looking at doing this, that you, you will have all corrections mail, sent to an offsite facility where they will scan it.

And electronically transmitted to the inmates, and the inmates under the, some of the systems that I've studied, all get a tablet, and they can review their mail on that tablet.

And people say, why are we going to give him the talent? Well, the company provides those tablets free of charge, because they make money every time that inmate uses that tablet and they're limited in what they can do with those tablets.

But and it also provides great Intel for the, for the corrections facility. That is a system that should be employed here.

We shouldn't touch, they shouldn't touch the mail here at all. Again that's time and personnel.

That could be put back to better use the control rooms.

There are approximately 48 officers sitting in the control rooms, and I'll show you the control rooms, you know, here in a minute.

What they do is they monitor TB screens and they push buttons to open and sell doors when they're called by 1 of the corrections officers.

It really doesn't need to be a trained security officer or a corrections officer doing that. Now again, I know what I'm suggesting is probably blasphemy to many.

But again, the main purpose of the jail is to provide safe and secure facilities for the people that are housed here.

In a safe working environment for the employees, and I think we need to start thinking outside the box and talking to the about ways to navigate these changes.

To make this a safe facility 1 of the other things that I noticed.

In the many visits here is when I come in the front door, there's somebody posted at the front door at the magnetometer.

And again, I don't want to be critical of anyone, but many times and I think because they've gotten to know me, you know, I just.

Waltz on through, but I've observed other times where other people, you know, it's just kind of, uh, lackadaisical atmosphere down there where people just kind of come through.

If the FBI and many fed federal buildings, they have a civilian contractor that handles.

The the door entries.

And the beauty of that is, those are private individuals that don't work with the other corrections officers. So you don't get this.

Feeling that hey, that's my buddy. I'm, I'm going to send them on through.

At the FBI, I'm telling you, the people that guarded our building and work magnetometer. They looked at you.

Very carefully made you empty your pockets. They didn't care who you were, how high up in the organization you were, they held you accountable to insure. There was nothing getting into the facility that shouldn't.

So, I think that's another area that we ought to take a look at again, provides corrections officers back to their true reason to be here. I think it would help in terms of.

Being more aggressive in terms of what comes in to here. The director has initiated a.

1, entry point of entry, wherever I see problems with that in my walk bots and visits down here. I see.

Corrections officers coming out of variety of doors to take smoke breaks and going back in to those doors.

Now, I don't want to accused anyone of any wrong doing, but I think like President Reagan said.

We trust but verify and it would be very easy for 1 of these smoke breaks to be a a pass off of contraband coming into this facility. I think

everybody that comes into this building should go through 1 point of entry.

That includes the contractors. The contractors currently back their trucks into the old Sally port down in the maintenance shop.

And just they're in the building, so.

They don't know what they have on them and they have carte blanche authority to go out throughout the building. And I think that.

Yes, we got to trust people, but we need to verify that. We're not getting contraband brought in through those avenues.

So, I think those are things that need to be done.

So that's a staffing staffing dovetails with recruiting.

Here's another area that really needs some, some revamping.

Recruiting is handled by the HR director here.

That poor lady, I don't know how she gets the work done. Not only is she required to handle recruiting she, she is responsible for all the steps in the hiring process to include.

I couldn't believe that every step of the way for a new recruit. She personally logs into an Excel spreadsheet when people complete certain aspects of the onboarding.

Here's a manager, she's a part of the executive staff is.

Data loading dates and compliance with the onboarding. I think that's a waste of her time and talents and it takes her away from so many other responsibilities. In addition she's responsible for workers.

Comp claims FMLA, overtime, issues, grievances.

Sexual harassment, I mean, she has a laundry list of things she does, and yet she's responsible for recruiting and as a recruiting piece, she goes out to.

Job fairs, recruiting events to include walking the malls handing out. Information about jobs here at corrections again I think that's a waste of her time and talent, and she is over overworked and if recruiting and staffing shortage is really a problem.

We're not doing it the right way by putting all this on the back of 1 person. Now, she has a corrections officer that has been recently appointed. That's helping her, but she's still herself does so much of the recruiting piece.

To include when the applicants come through for their physical assessment test, she goes out to the academy and assist with that.

So, you have an executive staff member in charge of recruiting is going out and doing the fitness assessments of new recruits.

That should be done by somebody, either at the training academy or somebody that is designated as the fitness and wellness officer.

To go out there in the FBI, we had a fitness coordinator to to encourage all of us as agents to stay fit and healthy and they ran the fitness test for the new recruits. We need to look at doing something like that.

What we're doing is we say recruiting is such a big issue.

But if you look at it, we're not putting our money where a mouth is. And I think that needs to be reexamined.

Training I went out to the training and Academy on 2 occasions.

I met with the captain who's in charge of training I've sat through new, uh.

Applicant training courses, insert service courses and I've met extensively with the captain and I will tell you that the captain that they currently have it training is an excellent.

Very professional man, and he is very passionate.

And is trying to do the best you can with what he has, but the training facility itself is inadequate, much like the jail not to the extent that the jail is inadequate. But it is very inadequate.

And if you're going to encourage people to apply for this job, they should walk into the training academy and it feel professional to them. Captain, who is over training right now is very professional man. Every time I encountered him, he had a polo shirt with the corrections emblem. He was very nicely dressed. Very professionally appeared.

And I commanded for that, but he just like the HR director.

Manually himself plugs in all the training data into an Excel spreadsheet. So, every time somebody does a in service, he puts in their name date.

Any time that they're CPR training, whatever the training is.

He himself a captain.

Plugs and information into an Excel spreadsheet.

He's responsible for all the new recruits training that he.

Manually inputs into this spreadsheet, all the in services.

I think there is a tremendous waste of talent for him to do that.

And here's the other piece of it, these spreadsheets that each individual that I met with creates themselves.

In many instances lacks the ability to extract data. When I said to captain on 1 of my visits. Can you tell me how many people are out of certification or CPR?

He said, well, I guess I could somehow.

I said, no, can you just right now do a query and tell me who's out out of the certification.

In so many instances, just like this when I asked for information.

To be provided, they can't do it.

There should be a software program that automatically spits out a notification to a supervisor.

Corrections officer buyer is out of certification for CPR or whatever, training firearms that should be notified out and not required of an individual.

The captain to scroll through a spreadsheet and figure out who's out of out of the certification.

That is very, very antiquated and we need to look at that across the board having software.

Doing the work, rather than individuals trying to do the work and having software that you can readily extract data from.

That is imperative in a in a continuing theme that I saw throughout the entire.

Academy or the jail.

Training another thing training is so very, very important.

Training sets the tone for the new applicants in recruits.

As to what is expected of them at corrections.

The instructors need to be.

Impeccable in terms of their character, their background so they can set the tone for the new recruits from day. 1.

Ethics and ethical behaviour needs to be inculcated in all the recruits.

Ethical behavior starts at the training academy and in order to do that, you need.

Instructors who are ethical impeccable and convey that information to the recruits and right now, instructors are being selected primarily on seniority.

And that's an area where the seniority has to yield to experience knowledge ability. And, as I said.

A background of impeccable character.

That is so important the facility.

That is an area that I'm going to jump out of this, because I'm running behind time. This facility is woefully inadequate and I'm going to scroll ahead here. Just give you some examples.

I'm going to scroll through very quickly. Here's an officers wet workstation.

This is a 3rd floor control room. Now director Collins has removed this plastic from much of the facility. These control rooms.

Are manned by 1 or 2 officers who view all the cameras have the ability to open the jail cell doors for the corrections officer that he needs to get into a jail cell and these workstations.

Are like dark tombs and this plastic.

Has been up there to provide some privacy to the people in the corrections, or the control room, but it, it negates their ability to see out. Now, the director has started to put up a film on the Windows.

And to his credit, I'm told that the former director didn't want that to happen for some reason. This is something that is just needs to be changed.

And it again, 1 of the things in in this whole facility discussion.

We need to be concerned about the welfare of the inmates, but we also need to be concerned about the welfare of the employees here corrections.

If you have to come to work in this situation.

This is like, when they build a new building, they put up this plastic sheeting and that's what they're sitting in the lighting is.

Or they have fluorescent lights that they turn off so they're, in essence, working in a dark room, and every control room I went into in my 4 visits and talked to the people,

the person Manning that control desk was working 16 hours they were mandated to work 2 shifts.

Can you imagine working 16 hours in a room like this?

And maintain your sanity. So the welfare of employees is equally important as.

The inmates, here's some other examples of the disrepair. This building. This dumpster area is being corrected by the director.

People were able to throw drugs and things over that concrete wall. And when the inmates, the trustees went out to get a dump the trash, they need to have access to those things. Here's another.

View of the ceilings in the facility. This is the control room again. Dark inadequate.

Property room, here's the property room. Also these little bins over here.

With property of the inmates, here's a Sally port processing desk.

Look at the all of justice lower cells.

No, no natural light. It's like a dungeon down there.

Another view no natural light workstation.

Here's a officer workstation, they're out in the middle of the hallway where inmates can walk by and see what they're doing.

1 of the things that director Collins has said is that he's going to put cameras in all the single cells. I lost him for that.

Right now the corrections officers in these control rooms, monitor these big monitors that I'm showing on this screen.

Problem is, they're responsible for at times over a 100 cameras. And they could only display 30 or 40 of those cameras on 1 of these screens.

So, we can stick as many cameras in this facility as we want. But if they're not being monitor, what good are they and that's something that needs to be addressed.

This red arrow that you see is a little device that I'm going to talk a little bit more about in this screen. It shows all the cells on that floor.

And it has a mechanism, or each cell door has a mechanism to alert, whether that doors unlocked or open in all of my visits. I would go into these control rooms and there'll be red flashing lights, blinking all over that screen.

And I'd asked the corrections officer what does that mean? He says well, it's probably that the inmates bumped on that sell door.

But in my walk about.

On 1 of my visits fraction officers that I was walking with, he tested 1 of the cells dorm doors.

Guess what it was unlocked it was supposed to be locked screen suggested it was locked, but it wasn't.

Last week, when I spoke to 1 of the major current major Gilbert. He came to the facility on early morning last a week.

Walking around, he found a sell door, not blocked because 1 of the inmates and stuff something in the locking mechanism from locking. That's a huge safety issue. Okay. And this little device here is supposed to guard against that. My opinion it's.

Pretty useless in many occasions.

So that is the facility.

I want to I, I've got a short time. I want to share this with, you.

In terms of the facility I spoke to the sheriff of, uh, who's in charge of the jail in Nashville, Tennessee.

2 years ago they built a new jail facility in downtown Nashville. It is a modern direct supervision modular where the.

Guards have direct line of sight at the prisoners and all that's going on, which we have none of here. Okay.

But Here's some, a program that they've initiated, I think is so innovative and something we need to do here that would.

Track with a new facility in their new facility, they have.

This side jail sells.

And on this side, they have what they call the behavioral care center now all prisoners.

Come through the intake process, and before they get a jump suit. Or anything else they're fingerprinted.

And in searched, but before they go anywhere else, they go into an assessment room.

Where their assessed for their mental health, and if that assessment suggests that they have mental health issues, they are diverted away from the jail over to the behavioral care center where.

They don't put on an inmate jumpsuit they put on clothes consistent with what a hospital or a mental health facility would provide and.

The corrections officers working in that behavioral care center don't wear uniforms that wear scrubs.

As do the mental health professionals so, in that environment, they're treated as mental health patients, rather than prisoners.

And another thing that they've done is that they will talk to the mental health patients and say, okay, here is your treatment plan. And if you agree to follow this treatment plan, and they do.

So, while they're in and they have to agree that, once they leave, they'll follow that.

Their charges are completely wiped away.

So, they get the treatment they need, they're treated like mental health patients, rather than criminals. They get the treatment they need and the best thing about this, and talking to the sheriff.

Listen to this, the recidivism rate of that program is 7 per cent. 7% compared to 67.

Outside of that program I think that is a program we should emulate and that should be built into the building of a new facility.

1 last thing, and then I'll open for questions in May tracking.

The director has moved forward with some new ways to check on inmates in this picture is is the current system.

On the top is a precautions list. Okay this person is suicidal. This person is detoxing. Whatever the situation is in right below is a observation block sheet.

So every time a corrections officer goal was to buy there, he puts the date time and his initials.

That is so subject.

To fraudulent activity and again, I, I, I, I found so many employees that are diligent doing the right things, but things like this, open the door for problems. And if you look at some of the things that have happened recently with the desk.

Where are those logs complied with or.

Did somebody not get the supervision or the observation they needed?

And with a new system called the system that they're exploring, you can do geo fencing,

which means if an inmate walks into an area that they're not supposed to be in your alerted there's so much technology that they wear wristbands.

So that you can see who this person is, should they be here? It's a system that we need to look at.

Over time we are consistently paying people overtime. Look at these amounts here.

Since 2015, we've paid 32,000 dollars 1Million dollars in overtime.

That money could be used to hire employees could be used to buy a lot of things we need to.

Reassess our doing overtime. Last thing.

Guess since 2005 here are the number of desks that we've had consistently.

1 or 2 deaths a year, and you can see the difference and compare them to what we've got going on. Now.

I'm going to provide this PowerPoint.

There are so many things that we're doing here at the jail.

And that's the last thing or 2 last things I want to share with, you.

Corrections officers, I think a lot of people have this vision.

That all they do is walk by the jail cell and that's an easy job. What's the problem here?

Well, the reality is corrections officers are doing far more than shaking jail cells. They're transporting people to the program to the religious services to the doctors to the nurses.

They're, they're escorting people all over the facility for various programs that are, uh. Active here, and it takes a lot of time. So if you have 2. Corrections officers on the floor doing the Walkabout. You pull 1 off. You're down to 1.

And on my tours, the staffing on the floors.

In my opinion was very inadequate so there there are so many things that need to be done that I'm going to put in my report.

Um, again, I commend director Collins, but he has a yeoman's task ahead of him to address many of the other issues.

That got us to be where we are. Thank you.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Thank you Mr. buyer. I'm, I've got a couple questions just to kick things off. 1 is thinking of.

The deaths that sparked this investigation.

Um, I hear a couple of.

Big themes here 1 is what I'll call built infrastructure. That is some combination of the facility Plus technology. Um, then I hear.

Standard operating procedures in process, right? I think about your comments about, um, you know, what certain sworn officers are doing versus what can be done, more efficiently in other ways to reallocate those sworn officers um, and then training. Right?

So so, you know, really in inadequate way that we've trained officers right? And it is starting from everything from ethics all the way to, you know, just full blown training on on what they're supposed to be doing on a day to day basis.

Which 1 of these seems to be.

Some of the root causes of the deaths, the 6 or 7 that originally sparked this investigation. Do you think most of them would have been remediate or potentially prevented due to built environment or training?

Or or is it mostly this or the next? 1? You know, you're just in your investigation of the root causes of each of those that's.

How could each of them, if they could have are the ones that could have been prevented, which 1 of these tactics and some of your recommendations rise to the top is having the most impact.

"David Beyer"

That's an excellent question. And to answer it, 1st, the facility is so inadequate in terms of.

The corrections officers being able to see what's going on throughout the facility and some of these deaths um, potentially, if they'd had a direct line of sight, for instance, on on the suicide.

All of which were committed through hanging. If you had a direct line of sight into those cells, you could have seen what was going on. But secondly, is the.

Back to basics as director Collins mentions you have to.

Do the rounds, but you can't walk by the cell and assume everything's okay on. Some of my walk about with the corrections officers, and some of the health officials they go by a cell.

There was an inmate on a cot with a blanket over their head.

And we walked by, like, everything's good and 1 time it looked like person wasn't moving and they stopped for a minute. It looks like his chest is rising and we moved on. Well, that person could be under their labor in breathing and just walking by because their chest is moving. You need to go in and check those people touch. Em, hey, you doing. Okay. So, that back to basics is very important as well.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Thank you, um, to.

What degree, you know, for example, technology you point out some of the recommendations I think the RFID tags are, I mean, outstanding recommendations some other things. Um, we could.

Put a lot of money into, um, renovating the current.

Facilitate, uh, or we could.

Uh, put some money into it to do the best. We can with the current circumstances. We have and focus on, because there's only so many dollars in any public institution. Right? There's if we had an infinite amount of money, we could do both.

We can't so to what degree would you say this is such a high priority that, you know, short of a handful of things that you should do immediately to rectify the situation and make it safer?

Um, we should be focusing resources as quickly as possible and to. Build it into building a new facility.

"David Beyer"

To that point, I equate it to somebody driving a car with 280,000 miles on it. And for the past 10 years, you've been fixing this and fixing that.

At what point in time do you stop putting money into a pit?

Or into a car, that's about ready to die. That's where we are here for over 10 years. People have been advocating a new building here. Is it costly?

You better believe it, but if you're mandated by somebody else, either a lawsuit or the Department of justice, you have no control over the cost and the.

Requirements that come with a consent decree are very, very expensive. And I say bite the bullet.

Control your costs because someone's not mandating or forcing you to do that. I think that's very important. And again, it goes to, you know, we talk about being a kind and compassionate city.

Yes, many of these peoples people have committed a crime, but what we're doing with them is not compassionate and is not kind the living conditions that they are in.

Are deplorable and I think having a building.

We need to finally we've been talking about it forever in 2016 a.

Deep dive was done to assess the facilities here.

And the grand recommendations now, we're 6 years later, and we're still where we were in 2016.

And we better start doing something, because I'm telling you, we're going to have more desks we're going to have more problems. And again, as I said, the mental health of the employees.

We can't overlook that either in in the current facility.
It's not conducive to a good work environment.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Well, especially considering we're, we're.
Pending a report here, which could end up in a consent decree related to day. We've actually set aside tens of millions of dollars. Thankfully, someone was dollars that that we got.
Uh, but that could have been allocated to things like affordable housing or improving services in the city that instead we have to do compliance related to the investigation.
Uh, it's it's and and would you say, at this point, we're, um.
Would you say at this point, we're running a high risk of having that type of thing happen if we don't take action in the short term.

"David Beyer"

Dennis hipper who I alluded to earlier, who ran the Reno jail.
They had a situation where they were forced to build a new jail.
They're in the 9th circuit in the federal court of Appeals you said if our facility was in the 9th circuit.
We'd have a problem, so I think it's time that we.
Recognize the potential risks that we have going forward the way we are.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Uh, last question for me, and then we have several people in the queue here. Um, you talk about training when.
In the Marine Corps, there's after you do your regular job for about 4 to 5 years, whether it's infantry or motor T or whatever it is you do, what's probably referred to as a, a, um,
is some function that doesn't have a full time job assigned to it, but they need Marines to do it drill instructor. Recruiter are 2 examples, drill instructor and recruiter are some of the hardest jobs to get.
There are ones that a lot of Marines don't necessarily want to do, because it takes them out of the field. It takes them.
Out of doing what they what they signed up to do. Uh, but.
The core, because, I mean, you know, we don't have union contracts to deal with there right? So they end up picking and and it's only you have to have a spotless ethical record, uh, a spotless service record book as far as discipline.
Um, and you have to be technically proficient right? But the, the, uh, your disciplinary record has to be essentially flawless. And the theory being that if you have.
People with flawless disciplinary records, recruiting, and then training it reduces the long term risk. You talked about.
Uh, the training personnel getting assigned by seniority now, there might be some correlation. Obviously there's probably some correlation between seniority and skill proficiency. Uh, but it sounds like.
The members of the Union, or the officers themselves are selecting in, does the command staff or anybody else have the ability to say hey, yeah, you have more seniority, but this person has a, you know, a perfect disciplinary record and they're technically proficient.

So, we're going to put them in does the command staff have any ability to do that? Currently?

"David Beyer"

I understand that there is some ability to assess a person's qualifications.

But quite frankly, I think the system we currently have, especially for, as you said, recruiting and training.

It should be a person of impeccable character who does not have anything in their disciplinary file again because the recruits can, you know, the rumor mill starts in the recruit class and people know who has gotten into problems here. And you need somebody just as you describe.

That can set an example for the recruits. And again, as I said earlier from day, 1.

What they see in the academy is what they're going to emulate throughout their career and so I would agree with you that.

Again, I think that the director and his staff should have the ability to select the people that are best qualified, both from their character, and the disciplinary actions, but their talents skill sets the ability to teach,

not everybody can be a teacher and the knowledge piece with regard to training, we ought to look at, you know, adjunct professors coming in people that are experts on different things, such as sexual harassment.

I think having an outside speaker on those topics would be imminently. The goal.

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

Excellent, thank you. Councilman Winkler

"Committee Member Winkler"

Thank you. Mr. chair. And thank you. Mr. buyer for being here and your detailed report? Um, I've got just a couple of comments to start with. So 1st of all I want to acknowledge and bank sort of your comments about director Collins. I think that many of us have seen a clear change in what's happened at Metro corrections.

Um, I think we've been very impressed with the work.

Come in, and I'm glad to hear that validated through, um, through your initial assessments. Right? And I think we all agree that, um, you know, the task ahead of him is is immense.

Um, and, you know, he can only do what he can do given the facilities that that he's dealing with as well. Right? So, uh, want to thank him and his work and and his team's work and and again appreciate your comments on that front.

Um, I do think is council and team mentioned, I mean, I, I think that many of us have come to the same conclusion relative to our facility. Right?

I mean, it is, I think I would probably say, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but, um, if you were designing today.

Sort of everything that we have in our jail is exactly what you would not do, uh, in in a jail facility. Right?

I mean, it if I'm not mistaken was really built as an office building, it has no direct line of sight requires lots of interaction between officers and inmates. Um.

And I think it's woefully inadequate and, you know, while it's probably not anything that that people want to spend money on. It's critically important that we do for the safety of those that we house there for the safety of the men and women who work there.

Um, and I think we've got an opportunity, as you say, you know, looking at systems, like, in Nashville, or I think Indianapolis has a similar complex where we focus not just on housing inmates, but also on the behavioral health, mental health aspect and.

Rehabilitation impacting recidivism, so I think we've got that opportunity.

Um, and I think, as you so eloquently said, you know, doing it, um, on, on our terms, uh, when we've got the opportunity to control, um, the expenditures and the way that it happens is probably much more prudent than, um,

that decision being forced upon us. And us losing, uh, that ability to to control the outcome. So, uh, really, thank you. And your objectives, uh, your, in your assessment of, of that matter. Um.

You know, I think really though, I've got 2 other comments I'll make, you know, 1, I think, is you would probably agree, you know, 1 of the things that you have happened with a facility. Like we've got is you create sort of this downward spiral right? The working conditions are very, very challenging.

People don't want to be there. You start losing people that puts more pressure on the people who remain they, you know, are working 16 hour shifts. They don't want to be there. And and you just have this continued pressure on the system.

That's that's really problematic.

What I hope your report does is, you know, really creates a blueprint for the next administration cause I think if we're realistic, I, you know, we aren't going to see this change in the next 70 days. Right? I hope we get a start on it.

Um, but, I think, really creating a blueprint for some systems thinking, identify, you know, what are the short term, medium term and long term things that we can be doing, um, to drive changes immediately to, to keep inmates and officers safe,

um, to improve working conditions. Um, you know, what are some.

Low hanging fruit technology investments that we can make. Um.

You know, you mentioned the training notifications, we just launched, you know, almost 20Million dollar, uh, project related to, um, uh.

Human Capital Management, right? Our, our work day product.

I mean, 1 of the things that that system is capable of doing is monitoring, uh, training compliance and sending proactive notifications to a supervisor that says, you know, hey, officer Jones is CPR certification expires next week. Right.

Here's the required training class. I think that's low hanging fruit that we can implement immediately. I think, you know, your recommendations around the RFI f I. D, you know, perhaps even those investments are transferable to a new facility.

Quality.

But really hope that the administration takes this work, starts the groundwork and moving us into January when we've got somebody new taken over, um, that really creates a roadmap for, for improvements. So, thank you again, for your work. I know we sort of had to probably cut short, um, you know, all of the things that you found, but really appreciate the work that you brought the work of director Collins and the men and women of of metro corrections. Thank you.

"David Beyer"

Thank you for those comments and I totally agree with you

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

and just so council members know the PowerPoint presentation, its entirety will be sent out to our metro council members. Immediately after the meeting the clerk is working on that right now. Constant Fox.

"Committee Member Fox"

Thank you Mr. vice chair and thank you Mr. buyer for being here, I might be jumping a couple of chapters ahead in this book, because I did see it on your itinerary. We may not have gotten to it yet. But, uh, there was a very enlightening and disturbing published report, uh, in the courier Journal earlier. This month about well, path. Ah, the service provider for metro corrections well, Path, according to the article operates in 36 States, and is currently involved in 200 incidents of litigation and 70 deaths. Are you going to go in deeper as the investigation continues on the medical component of this and how well path interfaces with our employees who are nurses and maybe even a practitioner or 2, uh, with the corrections department. Uh, are we going to get to that? Because I did see it, you mentioned well path initially, but you, you didn't go down that road.

"David Beyer"

Absolutely, yeah, we've already begun doing that. We have, as I said, met with the nurses, um, myself, and the forensic nurse is helping me we came down to the jail met with the nurses, the nursing supervisors. I requested their policies and procedures from their corporate headquarters, which I've received and we're going through those. We reviewed the death reports, the information that we have thus far to help see if there's anything from a medical standpoint. Deficient. But 1 of the things that your question raises is, it goes back to the facility piece. We have inadequate. Rooms for both physical and mental health patients and the way that's set up again. We don't have direct supervision on the medical floor. So again, somebody could be having a medical issue. And if somebody is not down there.

You know, something bad could happen before it's detected. So, I think again, I hate to keep coming back to the facility, but that's a huge piece of a lot of the problems that are going on in at the jail. And so. Direct answer to your question is, yes, we're going to do a deeper dive on the medical piece.

"Committee Member Fox"

But thank you Mr. buyer and I'll just remind my colleagues and councilman Winkler, uh, mentioned was built to be an office building. It was actually built for M. S. D. and it was repurposed as a jail.

So, there was no intention to do that to begin with also for the public watch and remind you of this is a jail. It is not a correctional facility rehabilitation things like that.

Are are nice where you can use them. But ideally, and legally this is. But a place where someone is meant to spend over a year serving out a misdemeanor sentence that gets jammed up in backlog due to the judiciary. Uh, and some of these folks are waiting trial end up being there for a very long time through various motions and stuff like that. So.

If we need to sacrifice, it may be on the rehabilitation end, but I really liked what you said about nationals facility and, and I like even more for a couple of us to go take a look at that where the mental triage is out of the box right after booking I think that's a huge component because.

When you look at our deaths and I have, they're, they're all suicide by hanging. At least the last.

10 or 12, or their overdose deaths, which go back to your picture the dumpster with the 6 foot wall around it. That's pretty easily explained. So, uh.

Entered this cycle on the front end.

Is huge, because as someone got very close to you, you know.

We we owe it not only to the citizens that we serve to keep them safe but we especially owe it to the corrections officers that are working in these facilities and we owe it to the detainees too, to return them into society in the same shape with which they came in or better.

Thank you

"Vice Chair Piagentini"

thank you councilman Arthur.

"Council Member Arthur"

Thank you chairman and thank you for being here. Thank you for your work so far. And I'll look forward to that report.

And I can really thoroughly look through it. I'm curious about how many staff members you've interviewed so far in total.

"David Beyer"

I don't have the total number right now, as I mentioned from the outset I've spoken to the former director, his his immediate staff, current director.

And that would put us at around 10 people, the nurses. I mean, I've talked to a lot of people thus far, and I have others that I'm going to be speaking with now. Obviously I can't speak to everybody here. And the 1 thing I think we all agree on is that it doesn't matter who the director is, or what we do here. We can't please everyone, but my stance in talking to the employees, things are much better than they were. And I think that if we. Take a look at the, the recommendations that I'll make. In that have made this evening and ultimately will I think we will. Alleviate a lot of the problems, or most of the problems that we're dealing with today.

"Council Member Arthur"

Understood and I know Thursday you're going to speak with some people who are incarcerated there about how many people have you interviewed, who are incarcerated so far.

"David Beyer"

So, that was 1 of the last pieces and I was not able to get that done before tonight. Uh, my intent is to start with a group of 5, male inmates. 5 female inmates do an assessment of what they provide to me and determine whether I need to speak to any others or more than the.

"Council Member Arthur"

Understood and this might be more so something for me and my colleagues to fight about, but I just want to remind remind everyone there's about 1500 people incarcerated at corrections and the staff is maybe a 3rd of that. And since the people who are incarcerated, they're dying at such higher rates and especially considering they out numbers staff, 3 to 1, I think it's really important to center their experiences as much as we can for the remainder of this contract. So. this contract so We're hearing from their experiences in the jail what's going on and what they think might make the most sense and then I got 2 other follow up questions 1, is about social services. And I'm curious, and I don't even know if this is possible if you would be able to look into a timeline of what has traditionally been offered. And then what has been discontinued even if it's just temporary. I know when covered 1st, programs got shut down for a while, but also staffing shortages comes into play when programs get shut down. I was at the gel the other week I'm hearing complaints from people about certain programs that they can't go to and the reasons vary, but I'm just curious if we can see a correlation between those services. And then the deaths or the well, being in general of people who are incarcerated there.

"David Beyer"

So, in the PowerPoint that I provided, there's a list of programs that are currently being offered by the jail, and they're actually rather extensive and, you know, for me to evaluate each program. And the success program, I think, would be beyond the scope of what I'm doing. Here, but I think if you look at that, I was very impressed with the number of programs that are being implemented and utilized here at the jail.

The other thing that you mentioned, and I think again, kind of tracks with some of the things I've said is that the jail is not. Set up to be a mental health facility, and they're probably 20% of the people in the jail that in old days in the old times would end up in a medical facility.

Interesting little tidbit. Sunday. I was out at solar park with my family and my grandkids and there's a historic marker talking about Central State Hospital and it talks about it being started.

I think it was in 1973 and they had 3. and seventy three and they had three
175 patients.

And that grew to 5,000 patients, and 1 of the interesting things on that historic marker think about this in 873. no 1 of their problems was. Lack of staffing, so, things sometimes never change. But my point of that is that.

Should we put everyone in a mental hospital? No, but there are certain people that need more help than the jail can provide and more help than just putting somebody back on the street. I speak to a.

A lot of officers they respond to a man with a pipe swinging in it in a restaurant man, at a restaurant with a knife going at patrons.

That person, you can't just bring them in here and set them free because they're going to go back out and do those same things. So we need to develop the ability to.

You know, even go into a halfway how some people just can't be there because of the nature of their problems. And so in a utopian world, we bring everybody in and send them to this house and, you know, everything would be fine.

And there are some people that can benefit from that.

But we do need to, as a society come up with a better way of handling people that need intensive therapy and care.

"Council Member Arthur"

Could you clarify something you mentioned the scope of the investigation and listing programs? What I'm really looking for is if those programs are active and if them being active or inactive correlates with any of the deaths, or the general.

Well, being of the people who are there, so I know you list the programs and we have a list of programs too, but if the programs on paper, but they're not actually being implemented.

They're kind of useless. I'm just curious if you can clarify about the scope. And if you're just giving us the list of programs, which we largely already have, but, you know, going beyond and digging into. Okay. They're actually doing this versus this is just on a PowerPoint or this is just on a paper.

"David Beyer"

Well, I can clarify that, but it was.

I was led to believe that those are active programs, but I can go back and ask the director to clarify that and verify that.

"Council Member Arthur"

Understood and then the last thing related to programs I'm curious about those programs being an off site.

Versus at the actual jail, I was also informed when I was there. There are some contractors who offer services, but they're largely for people who get out then they have to contact them, which is inaccessible for the people who actually are there.

And if we're approving budgets, we're proving contracts for the jail to implement services, we would expect, at least a portion of those services to be at the actual jail itself.

So, I'm, I'm curious about if they're active, but also, if they're actually on site at the jail itself, or if they're off site and again, thank you for your.

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Work.

"David Beyer"

Thank you to answer your question. I, I believe most of them are active here at the jail, but they do.

Uh, coordinate with outside entities to, to help the inmates when they get back on the street.

"Chair Pro-tem Winkler"

Thank you, uh, president. James

"Council President James"

Thank you. Mr.

Um, uh, so, uh.

Mr. Barrett, thank you for the work. You've done Thank you for.

Your comments so far and thank you for the work you're getting ready to do. Um, and, um, I'm a.

Pleased to hear about things that I've I've been hearing about about.

Director Collins doing so much to improve things there and we've been hearing that, but it feels good to to hear you say it also. So thank you. Um, I am curious though.

In your talks, I was watching your presentation there and 1 of the things you talked about, where the vendors and contractors coming in and going as they please in the building, which has been a concern for mine for quite some time.

I spoke to direct Clark and director belt and about that and never.

Got any satisfaction from that in your conversations with the command staff there, the administration of at the jail, what kind of response or comments did you get from those conversations?

"David Beyer"

As I mentioned on that list of things that director Collins has initiated 1 of the items was 1 entry point and.

As I made my visits here.

It may be 1 entry point for some people, but not for all people as I said.

And again, I can't reiterate enough that the corrections officers I interacted with.

I was very impressed by, like, in all organizations, there are people that.

You know, don't do what's right and as I said, when people go out of side door to take a smoke break.

They could encounter somebody on the sidewalk, passing something to them and it's easy to get that into the facility. I think everyone coming into the jail should go through 1 point of entry. And even if they.

You know, they can go through the magnetometer and of course, the contractors can have knives and tools in their in their truck.

But a well trained person at the front desk, just like the TSA people at the airport can take a look at a person. See if they're nervous or exhibiting signs of potentially doing something wrong and it's going to. Reduce the chance of contraband coming in here and to that point 2 additional points is that.

We have a keen on unit now, which I think is laudable.

I think those canines hang out at the front desk a lot. So when people come through, I don't care who they are coming through. They get a sniff down and if people know that randomly, those dogs are going to be out there. It may curtail some of the things coming in.

I think that's very important.

But again, the contractors they backed truck down in the salary port, and they're in the facility, uh,

previously before director Collins took over the commissary people could come in and they were packaging up bags that are delivered to the inmates again. That would have been a very easy way to get contraband in into the facility.

So I think we need to.

Encourage the 1 point of entry for every 1.

No exceptions everyone comes in through that front door and as the guy report pointed out.

At 1 time everyone coming in, had to have a clear plastic bag now.

Unfortunately, you know, many of the employees have their lunch bag, or they're lemon bag that they want to bring in with their thermos. And that has not been done. Um.

We have to decide, I mean, it's like everything in life there's a balance how strict and from do you want to be and.

You know, on the other hand, we've got deaths through overdoses.

You know, we need to crack down on on the entry points for that.

Contraband

"Council President James"

Thank you. Thank you very much.

"Chair Pro-tem Winkler"

I don't see anyone else in queue.

See, if anybody on line has another common question.

No, 1 else in the room is ready. Thanks for being here.

Um, thank you again to, uh, staff of the jail to the men and women of of corrections, uh, who came today and and who who work in that facility every day um, again, I appreciate your time, and it can report and look forward to getting a further update, uh, once you have a chance to speak to additional staff and to the inmates and seeing the final outcome, thank you very much. Thank you.

With no further business, and without objection we stand adjourned.