



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

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Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

**MICHAEL REESE
SHERIFF**

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December 1, 2020

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

Re: 2020 Corrections Grand Jury Report

Mr. Schmidt,

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is in receipt of the 2020 Corrections Grand Jury Report. We thank the Grand Jurors and your staff for this insightful report. The COVID-19 global pandemic required this process to look much different this year, and I appreciate your team's efforts to safely facilitate this important process.

MCSO values the meaningful work by the Corrections Grand Jury, as they review the conditions and management of corrections facilities throughout Multnomah County. While this year's process had to be limited to short video presentations of our two facilities, and a compressed interview schedule, the opportunity for members of our community to review our facility operations is imperative to the success of our Corrections Division.

The jurors' focus on MCSO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic within its facilities was an important part of this year's report. I was encouraged to see these members of the community recognize the efforts our agency has made to protect the adults in our custody. Our response has been successful in large part to the ability to be agile as public health recommendations adapt to this dangerous virus. The success of our response is credited to the dedication of our staff and our partnership with the Multnomah County Health Department.

MCSO is committed to taking important lessons we have learned during our pandemic response and using those to better our system moving forward. Many of these items were noted in this report, including; pre-trial reform, reduction in the percentage of authorized capacity, reach-in services to support the specific needs of our adults in custody, expanded walk times and job readiness training with a focus on reintegration into the community. MCSO has already started working on these essential areas of reform and will be addressing them throughout the upcoming County budget process.

The important and challenging work of the Corrections Division would not be possible without a committed team of employees dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of those in our care. While our minimum qualifications and psychological evaluation process have remained unchanged for the last several years, we are always looking for progressive ways to ensure our staff best reflects the community we serve. To help in these efforts, MCSO Equity and Inclusion Manager Rebecca Sanchez, is partnering with Human Resources to meet the goals of the agency and the County's Workforce Equity Strategic Plan.

We appreciate the grand jurors taking time to hear the perspectives of both our members and the adults in our custody. Thank you again for your dedication to this process as it continues to increase transparency and accountability in an important area of public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Reese".

MICHAEL REESE
SHERIFF