

Exhibit D



AFGE Local 2005
Council of Prison Locals #33, AFL-CIO
100 29th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11232



DATE: June 23, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: AMY BONCHER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FROM: Rhonda Barnwell, President, AFGE Local 2005 President/ *Rhonda Barnwell*

SUBJECT: Unsafe Working Conditions

The Local has tried diligently to resolve this issue at the local level numerous times and have been unsuccessful at every attempt. Though this is an ongoing issue at multiple Bureau of Prisons Institutions, it creates a higher risk for staff and inmates alike within a high rise/Detention Center setting. As you are aware MDC Brooklyn maintains various levels of inmate offenders, all while continuously receiving large volumes of in-transit inmates and new commits daily, as well as court appearances and Escorted Hospital trips. The demands of a high transit Institution with little to no staff is a violation of Article 27 of the Master Agreement.

For a multitude of reasons, MDC Brooklyn is and has been severely understaffed for years. The current turnover rate for incoming/new Officers is over 50%, and will continue to decline if the Northeast Region and or the Director continues to turn a blind eye to what is actually happening in New York City, as we can not compete with the pay band of other agencies within the Tri-state area.

On a daily basis housing units at MDC Brooklyn are left vacated (unmanned by staff) and locked down, with the expectation of Management that a single (One) Officer is to make rounds, feed, and perform additional correctional duties on the vacated units. Additionally, visiting room staff are required to perform the duties of additional officers because the agency refuses to cease legal and social visits when there are no staff. The Local is trying to prevent loss of life and or serious physical harm to staff. Lest I remind you of the serious staff assault that took place here at MDC Brooklyn around February 2022, in which Officer A. Flores was physically assaulted by an inmate, who punched him in the mouth

and attempted to drag him down the housing unit stairs via his stab proof vest. As a result of the assault, Mr. Flores had to have jaw reconstruction surgery and eventually quit the BOP because of the safety concerns and him not feeling supported by the Agency.

During previous LMR Meetings, institution management was made aware of the Local's concerns regarding this change in the employees' working conditions, to which Management's stated "staff would not be held accountable if there was an assault and or loss of life during these times". This is unacceptable as Management at the local level are aware of the potential hazards associated with requiring one officer to maintain 3 housing units in a single shift, all while being mandated with little to no sleep. This is a violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Program Statement 3000.03. Do you consider this a safe practice? Would you want to work under these conditions?

The Agency's actions are inhumane to both staff and inmates, as the institution remains locked down on several occasions, which angers the inmates and heightens the inherent danger for staff. Coverage is so minimal that at times there are only 6 staff members available to respond to body alarms, staff assists, and or inmate medical emergencies. This is especially true on weekends and holidays and there is no longer any TDY staff to assist with this burden.

In accordance with Article 27 of the Master Agreement; the Employer agrees to lower those inherent hazards to the lowest possible level; the employer also agrees to furnish employee's places and conditions of employment that are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm. For the past two years Management at the local level has refused to utilize proposals and Memorandums from the Local Union, hence relying solely on mandatory overtime, volunteer overtime, and augmentation to manage more than half of the correctional services roster.


The agency as a whole has failed to assist MDC Brooklyn with the staffing crisis, hence allowing MDC Brooklyn to fail. What are you waiting for, another loss of inmate life? Your indifference and continued failure to act, will bring the Federal Bureau of Prisons more negative notoriety.

In an effort to make you more aware of these inadequacies, I have attached copies of MDC Brooklyn's Correctional Services Roster.

The local union is requesting that the agency cease and desist with forcing staff members to work more than one post in a single shift. The Local is also requesting that the Agency adhere to Article 6 (b2), Article 18 (r,s), and Article 27 of the Master Agreement and provide a safe environment for all staff.

The Local Union is requesting that we meet in person to discuss these pressing concerns and devise corrective actions.

The parties devote up to 2(two) days for your written response before this situation is escalated to a third party to include the media, and the inmate advocates.

R.Barnwell, /R.BA  NWELL

President, AFGE

Local 2005, CPL33