



CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Kevin J. Joyce
SHERIFF
- Brian R. Pellerin
CHIEF DEPUTY

36 County Way, Portland, Maine 04102

Phone (207)774-1444 – fax (207)828-2373

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Dear Legislators, Cumberland County Commissioners and Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitor Members,

Jail Board of Visitors Requirements:

1. With the updated 2023 statutes for the Board of Visitors (BOV) the increased expectations are being incorporated into policy. In regards to training and orientation of BOV members, it will be coordinated by the training department and will entail completion of a jail security class. Quarterly BOV meetings will be scheduled through the BOV Chair and Jail Executive Assistant. BOV members will have access to staff and offenders to include facility tours. Annual Jail review closeout meeting with Sheriff and Jail Administration will review facility operations with BOV.

Additional Security Camera Investment:

2. Consider investments in additional security cameras and upgrades to existing surveillance software. We heard from the Correction Officers that the perimeter of the building is often a hangout for transients, and it would be helpful to have additional cameras for this type of support.

The facility's outer perimeter security enhancement is being reviewed for possible safeguard options i.e. armed patrol with K-9 component or additional fencing. The Cumberland County Jail campus is completely open to all who want to drive onto the property or walk through the property. We are constantly breaking up homeless encampments adjacent to the Cumberland County Jail as well as often finding used needles and other contraband items adjacent to some of the pods, outside recreation yards. This creates safety and security concerns for the jail administration.

Surveillance cameras are continuing to be added to the current system within our budget constraints and alternative grant funding is also being explored.

Support for Diverse Workforce:



3. Jail command staff have noted that there needs to be more support, education and awareness that comes from a more diverse workforce. In the upcoming year the Board recommends that additional education and support for both the existing correction officers and the newly hired diverse correction officers to assist with assimilation and success in retention of the workforce.

Over the past couple of years, our jail staff has become increasingly diverse and communications challenges are being experienced for all. While some employees speak English, it is considered a second or third language. The job of a corrections officer requires that an individual communicate both verbally and written. We MUST make sure that our employees where English is a second language have the tools to succeed.

Additional educational resources are being explored for newly hired staff to assist in the performance of their job duties. In addition, utilizing new staff in the recruitment process for a diversified approach. The County has established a DEI committee to address some of these challenges.

Regards,



Kevin J. Joyce, Sheriff
Cumberland County

