



OFFICERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN TO PROTEST UNSAFE STAFFING

Assault on CO Kevin Ott emphasizes problems with budget-driven corrections

More than 100 people protested unsafe staffing at Saginaw Correctional Facility Thursday.

The informational picket was planned in response to the brutal attack on SRF Officer Kevin Ott Oct. 17. As MCO reported Monday, Ott was stabbed in one lung three times and hit in the head with two locks in a sock. Ott suffered a blood clot on his brain and a collapsed lung. After several days, he was released from the hospital. He is recovering at home. Kevin Ott is still in a lot of pain, his brother Paul Ott said.

"We always said somebody is going to get hurt ... I never thought it would be my brother," said Paul Ott, who is a CO and first vice president of the MCO chapter at Saginaw.

Officers from Muskegon, Jackson, Bay City and other areas turned out. Dozens of SRF officers came by

before or after their shift. A few of them shed tears.

SRF Officer Todd Wendt was working when the assault happened.

"It was a horrible, horrible day," Wendt said. "We all know it can happen, but it's not supposed to happen."



Visit us on Flickr for more photos of the SRF picket. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mco-shots/>.

Ott's sister Rebecca Daniels and her husband Jim Daniels came to the protest. Rebecca Daniels said she's still shocked and sad.

"My brother loved his job. For this to happen to him, it's just very sad ... He kept trying to convince everyone, go into corrections," she said.

She credits the other officer in the unit, Paul Stine, for saving her brother's life.

Not surprisingly, Warden Thomas Winn said staffing levels are appropriate. MCO has opposed the prison staffing cuts since they were imposed in 2012.

Thank you to all who attended. Please continue to keep Kevin Ott and his family in your prayers. MCO won't give up the fight for safe staffing levels. Concerned community members and officers are encouraged to contact MDOC and demand safe staffing.

AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK PROBLEMS RESURFACE; ARF UPDATES

Aramark's notoriously poor service continues.

News outlets reported a former food service employee at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility has filed a whistle-blower complaint, claiming she was fired in retaliation for pointing out unsanitary food and kitchen conditions. According to news reports, Amy McVay complained to her supervisors and was told "This is a prison; not a five-star restaurant."

The media also reported an employee at ARF was placed on stop order earlier this month on allegations of drug smuggling. MCO reported the

stop order in the Oct. 6 KYI.

Segregation inmates at the Oaks Correctional Facility were mad when their breakfast trays showed up without bran cereal Wednesday.

The trays had peanut butter, bread, jelly and milk.

An Aramark worker decided peanut butter would be an acceptable substitute for bran, even though peanut butter was already on the trays. Inmates were angry and yelled about the food, an officer said.

Bran was finally delivered to seg.

A Gus Harrison inmate threw urine on officer Wednesday. The prisoner was a Level IV.

Also on Wednesday at ARF, a substance that tested positive for heroin was found in an inmate's mail. The inmate was sent to segregation.

CRISIS FUND GUN RAFFLE UPDATE

The gun raffle was held Tuesday at the MCO Central Conference. A list of winners is on the MCO website.

The Crisis Fund helps members facing catastrophe. Thank you for buying tickets!