



AROUND THE STATE: OAKLAND COUNTY ACCIDENTALLY RELEASES DANGEROUS INMATE; LMF GRAPPLES WITH FIGHTS AND STAFF ASSAULTS; DOZENS OF OCF PRISONERS TICKETED IN FIGHT

Oakland County released a dangerous inmate by mistake Wednesday instead of returning him to MDOC custody, the department said in a statement today.

Johnny Rodgers, 25, was released at about 6 p.m. after a court appearance. Rodgers is serving 7 to 15 years for assault with intent to commit murder, armed robbery, and felony firearms convictions.

Rodgers was lodged at Cotton before being turned over to Oakland County for court proceedings. He was last seen in Detroit wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and boots.

Rodgers should be considered dangerous.



Johnny Rodgers

If you see him, do not approach. Instead, call 911 or the Michigan State Police at 1-855-MICH-TIP (1-855-642-4847).

Alger officers have had their hands full with inmate fights.

There were at least two inmate fights Aug. 19. That evening, an officer in the Level II Spruce Unit told an inmate to report to the officer's station, but the prisoner wouldn't end his phone call. After he eventually hung up the phone, he charged at an officer, COs say. Inmates congregated in the commons area, in what an officer called a show of force. An incite-to-riot ticket was written. Inmates also refused to leave the chapel. The facility was placed on lock down.

Monday, an LMF inmate in Maple Unit (Level IV) tried to punch an officer in the

head. The officer blocked the punch and was struck in the wrist.

At least five fights broke out in a 30-minute window Aug. 17 at Ojibway, and officers say the melee was gang related.

COs had to break up the fights. Twenty-five tickets were written, and 18 inmates were transferred to other prisons.

One officer pulled a hamstring during the response, MCO was told. No serious inmate injuries were reported.

The facility was placed on lock down until about 10 a.m. the following day. OCF is Level I.

Also recently at OCF, a package of contraband, including cell phones and drugs, was found outside the facility Aug. 4.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES HEAR ABOUT CRIME-REDUCTION EFFORTS

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Corrections and State Police held a joint hearing Wednesday on public safety.

"Given the statistical information that shows that we have three of the most dangerous communities in the nation, it's important that we identify what we're doing right, what we can do better, where resources should be applied, and how we can make a difference in the state of Michigan. The budget process is just one of those areas where we can do so," said Sen. John Proos, chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections.

Proos was referring to a widely-cited FBI report that identified Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw as being among the most dangerous cities in the U.S.

Proos has also advocated for the passage of 21 criminal justice reform bills.

Many of the comments at the hearing focused on efforts to reduce crime in Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, and Pontiac. Michigan State Police Capt. Gene Kapp said the Secure Cities Partnership significantly reduced crime in those cities from 2012-2015. For example, violent crime has fallen 45 percent and property crime has dropped by 40 percent in Flint, Kapp said. Saginaw has seen similar

declines in property and violent crimes. The Secure Cities Partnership provides investigatory resources to local police departments and also focuses on community policing and building public trust.

MDOC's FOA Deputy Director Russ Marlan and Legislative Liaison Kyle Kaminski also spoke at the meeting. There are 58,464 people under MDOC supervision. There are currently 1,123 absconders, which is about 33 percent less than in July 2013, Marlan said. MDOC is doing more to share the department's intelligence with law enforcement agencies, he said.

MCO is sharing this information, not because leaders agree with all of the comments made at the hearing, but because members need to understand that prison reform, recidivism, and public safety are hot topics in our state legislature. Legislators are continuing to look for alternatives to incarceration, and have told MCO staff more closures could possibly be coming in the future if the prison population continues to decline. Both the House and Senate are continuing to look for savings in the MDOC budget, which takes up the largest portion of the state's general fund.

We'll keep you updated.



REST IN PEACE, OFFICER LOCK

DRC Officer Scott Lock has passed away.

Lock had worked at several facilities in his 21 years as an officer and MCO member.

No funeral arrangements have been made.

Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts. Rest in peace, Officer Lock.

Fundraiser will support family of FSA John Foley

A golf tournament will be held Sept. 18 to help support the family of CFP member John Foley, who passed away in July.

The tournament will be held at Deme Acres Golf Course, 17655 W. Albain Rd., Petersburg, MI. The cost is \$65 per person. Fee and registration are due Sept. 9.

To sign up, contact Terry Jensen 734-429-2531 Ext. 4604. A flyer with more details is available at mco-seiu.org.