



MCO TAKING ACTION FOLLOWING RIOT AT KINROSS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Union leaders asking MDOC for meeting to talk about contributing factors and solutions

As most readers are probably aware, there was a riot at Kinross Correctional Facility Sept. 10.

Windows were smashed. A clothes dryer was thrown from a window. Sinks, toilets, and other fixtures were destroyed. Fire was set to at least one unit. Inmates barricaded themselves in housing units. MDOC staff from prisons around the state were called to Kinross, including Emergency Response Teams and gun squads. Miraculously, no staff injuries were reported.

Although some limited media comments were made in the days after the riot, MCO leadership and staff made a decision to hold back details until calm was definitively restored and armed squads were removed from the prison.

“We felt a real responsibility to the officers around the state and those officers that were still in Kinross dealing with the situation,” Vice President/Chief of Staff Andy Potter said.

We’ve come out stronger this week to tell the media, lawmakers, and the public

what really happened. MCO officials have spoken with the Detroit Free Press, WJR radio Detroit, CMU Public Radio, Michigan Public Radio, 1320 WILS, and more.

We are taking out ads in several newspapers to acknowledge and thank all of the officers, ERT members, other MDOC staff, and all of the other first responders who responded to the riot.

MCO is calling this a riot, despite MDOC’s continued claims that it was not. Their only official release on the incident contained the word, “peaceful.” Their continued minimizing of this event has deeply offended officers.

For anyone who is unsure what to call the Kinross event, here is Michigan’s legal definition of a riot, according to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 752.542a, Riot at state correctional facility:

“A person shall not willfully instigate, cause, attempt to cause, assist in causing, or conspire to cause a riot at a state correctional facility. As used in this section, “riot at a state correctional facility” means 3 or more persons, acting in concert, who intentionally or recklessly engage in violent conduct

within a state correctional facility that threatens the security of the state correctional facility or threatens the safety or authority of persons responsible for maintaining the security of the state correctional facility.

History: Add. 1988, Act 393, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.”

MCO leaders have been reaching out to MDOC administrators and lawmakers. Andy Potter (Vice President/Chief of Staff) and Jeremy Tripp (Government and Political Affairs Director) have already met with several legislators, the governor’s chief of staff and the corrections ombudsman. More meetings are scheduled, including with the chairs of the House and Senate corrections appropriations subcommittees.

Immediately after the riot, MCO leaders contacted the MDOC administration and asked for a meeting. They agreed, but did not agree to a date. Again we requested a meeting in a formal letter sent today. The ball is in their court. We eagerly await their response.

MCO APPLAUDS HOUSE AND SENATE FOR PASSAGE OF SURVIVOR HEALTH BENEFITS BILL

After months of discussion and consideration, the Michigan House and Senate have passed a bill that will provide health benefits for the surviving spouse and dependents of officers who are killed in the line of duty.

Senate Bill 218, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), covers the families of law enforcement officers, corrections officers, firefighters and members of a rescue squad or ambulance crew.

MCO Government and Political Affairs Director, Jeremy Tripp, has been advocating the importance of this bill since it was introduced in March of 2015 and made passage a central part of MCO’s platform when speaking with lawmakers in both chambers.

Throughout the legislative process, we emphasized the dangerous nature of corrections work and tragic circumstances a slain officer’s family is faced with after.

MCO also encouraged inclusion of Forensic Security Assistants and has been informed that it is the position of the fund administrator that those classifications are covered by the bill.

While we hope for the safety of every officer, this legislation serves as an important reminder of the risks we face every day and the real world impact those dangers have on our loved ones.

AROUND THE STATE: WHV CO ASSAULTED; SUSPECTED DRUG SMUGGLING AT JCF

A WHV officer was punched and hit her head on a metal toilet while trying to subdue a prisoner Sept. 14.

The injured CO and another staff member entered an inmate’s cell because she had tied an undergarment around her neck and

around a doorknob. The prisoner hit the officer. As they tried to gain control of the prisoner, the CO fell and hit her head, causing a concussion.

She returned to work a week later on light duty.

A Cotton inmate received suspected drugs while visiting his mother in the visiting room Sept. 17.

Michigan State Police are testing the substance.