



## YOU'RE INVITED: JOIN MCO FOR A FIRST SCREENING OF OUR NEW VIDEO ON CORRECTIONS OFFICER DIGNITY

Please join us for a special film screening Wednesday, Jan. 11 in Ionia.

We'll be showing a short film that sheds light on the impact of liquid assaults and shares the stories of corrections staff who have been dressed out or objectified by inmate sexual exposures. The film also lays out the need to protect staff and gives an account of MCO's actions to build a coalition and take a firm stance against these vile assaults. It's all part of MCO's "Officer Dignity Initiative."

The initiative and this new film lift up corrections officers and the realities of your career.

More info on the Officer Dignity Initiative is at [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).

See you there!

**What:** Premiere of the Michigan Corrections Officer Dignity Video, followed by a get together with fellow officers. Food will be provided.

**Who:** All MCO members, in the Ionia area and beyond. Spouses/significant others are also welcome.

**When:** 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11

**Where:** Renucci's Restaurant, 540 North State Street, Ionia, MI 48846

## AROUND THE STATE: COs ASSAULTED; KCF RIOT COSTS TALLIED

**Four Carson City officers were injured while breaking up an inmate assault, but they may have saved a prisoner's life.**

The assault happened Dec. 27 in 500 unit, a Level IV. An inmate armed with a lock-in-a-sock was beating another prisoner and refused officers' orders to stop. Officers deployed Tasers, but they were ineffective.

The first officer to respond was hit in the arm with the lock-in-a-sock. Another officer was hit in the head with the lock-in-a-sock on the inmate's back swing. A third officer maneuvered beaten inmate away from the officer who was hit in the head. He covered the victim with his body, protecting him from further blows. He was kicked and struck with the weapon. This officer's right arm was broken.

The brutal assault didn't stop until an ARUS used pepper spray. One officer was exposed to the pepper spray.

In total, four officers were injured. Three of them needed medical treatment.

Officers said the assailant would have killed the victim if staff hadn't intervened.

Thank you, officers, for your courageous response to this serious assault. When we say you have Michigan's toughest job, we mean it.

**A Marquette inmate knocked an officer down and punched him Dec. 31.**

The assault happened in the Level V B-

block unit near the showers. The CO was hit at least four times. Officers quickly responded. Several inmates refused orders to disperse, officers said. The CO was taken to an emergency room by ambulance. He suffered minor injuries and returned to work that day.

Earlier in December, five officers were dressed out with urine and feces by one inmate. This prisoner also struck a CO's eye with a pole used to push TV buttons, scratching his pupil. The officer is OK and has returned to work, MCO was told.

**An Alger inmate involved in a fight turned on a CO who tried to intervene.**

The officer was punched in the head at least three times before officers could stop the assault, which happened Wednesday. The CO was sent to a hospital for an evaluation and returned to work.

**MDOC announced this week that expenses related to the Kinross riot total \$888,320.**

The Department gave the amount to MCO in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. Many news outlets also reported on the expense.

We will continue to advocate for solutions to help prevent something like the Sept. 10 riot from happening again.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SCAM AFFECTS OFFICERS

MCO has been made aware that several members around the state, and other state and private employees, have been victims of fraudulent filings for unemployment benefits.

MCO has reached out to MDOC for specifics and information on how such information was gained by the perpetrators. It's unclear who did this and how. MDOC officials have informed MCO that approximately 60 members were the subject of fraudulent filings. MDOC claims that there has been no evidence of employee information being "hacked" from the state. This type of fraudulent activity has been reported across other states and in the private sector, an MDOC official said.

MDOC personnel offices have been contacting staff members who have an unemployment claim made in their name. MDOC personnel offices have been providing them with necessary documents and information to dispute the claim. MDOC will continue to provide this assistance.

Whether a fraudulent claim has been made in your name or not, it's a good idea to check your credit report regularly. By federal law, you are entitled to one free report every 12 months. To request your report, go to [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com). That website includes information on protecting yourself from identity theft and what to do if you see unfamiliar info on your credit report. You can also find information from the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov).