



AROUND THE STATE: OCF COs RESPOND TO ESCAPE ATTEMPT

An Ojibway inmate climbed on roofs and jumped on the interior fence in what officers are calling an escape attempt.

As yard time was ending Aug. 23, the prisoner ran to the medical lines window, then onto an awning, an officer said. From there, the inmate got onto the roof of the administration building. He crossed the roof, dropped down on the other side, and started to scale the interior fence. He tripped a zone alarm, and COs responded quickly.

The prisoner obeyed orders to come down. He didn't make it over the interior fence. Razor wire cut the inmate, and he needed stitches in an arm, an officer said. He was transferred to another facility. The prisoner was scheduled to be paroled in about a month.

The responding COs and other staff handled this incident well. Their quick actions prevented what could have been an escape. Great work!

OCF officers say there's no dedicated PSV officer. The CO who makes PSV rounds must also staff the info desk. The PSV officer rushed to the zone break, but he would've been too late to respond to an escape, officers said.

Also, OCF was budgeted to get additional razor wire, an officer said, but the purchase has been put on hold.

ICF officers recovered a 4-in. weapon after a fight Tuesday that sent one inmate to the hospital.

The brawl started in the Unit 4 (Level V) small yard entrance. One inmate punched another prisoner several times

from behind. The assaulted inmate fought back, and they wouldn't comply with officers' orders to stop. Eventually COs were able to end the fight.

The assaulted inmate was stabbed in the melee. He was transported to a hospital.

Officers quickly responded to this altercation and put a stop to it before it could get worse. Great job, ICF custody staff.

A Trinity employee at Brooks allegedly brought in a large amount of cash last week for an inmate, a CO said. The employee was placed on stop order.

MDOC policy allows employees to bring in no more than \$25. Large amounts of cash can compromise a prison's safety and security.

MORE INFORMATION ON CIVIL SERVICE PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

A coalition of labor leaders this week called on the Michigan Civil Service Commission to reject proposed rule changes that, if approved, would go into effect Jan. 1, 2019. These changes are aimed at severely limiting the collective bargaining process and undermining the rights of Michigan state employees.

These proposed changes – concerning the Employee Relations section of the Rules & Regulations – will have a significant impact on the collective bargaining rights of employees. Specifically, the changes would make certain subjects of bargaining – which are currently mandatory subjects of bargaining – prohibited subjects. Prohibited subjects of bargaining are terms of employment that the employer has complete control over. Prohibited subjects of bargaining

are not subject to negotiation or the grievance procedure.

The Commission notes that its proposed changes are aimed at streamlining differences in existing union contracts, but the Coalition disagrees. Current language in Coalition contracts creates work environments conducive to maximizing employee service to the public. In addition, negotiated terms maintain a balance between public service and fairness and equity in the workplace.

The MCSC was created to protect tax payers and classified state employees from political partisanship, nepotism, and public corruption. Negotiated contract terms currently in place promote fairness in the workplace. These terms insulate citizens and employees from the very ills that the

MCSC was created to protect against.

The coalition, as well as outside counsel, are reviewing the proposed changes and preparing a response. The Michigan Civil Service Commission will meet on Sept. 20 to vote on the proposed changes. In the coming days, the Coalition is assessing exactly how the changes will affect collective bargaining and current contract language.

Collective bargaining provides a civil forum for resolving disputes, resulting in more efficient service and savings for the people of Michigan. Before collective bargaining, labor unrest was common. Today, we resolve our problems at a conference table, where we foster communication and make better decisions for state employees and the Michigan citizens we serve.