



Michigan Corrections Organization

Service Employees International Union Local 526M

421 W. Kalamazoo Street Lansing, MI 48933
Phone (517) 485-3310 Fax (517) 485-3319
www.mco-seiu.org



December 9, 2015

Director Heidi Washington
Michigan Department of Corrections
206 E. Michigan Ave.
Grandview Plaza
PO Box 30003
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Prosecutions of Liquid / Dress-out Assaults and Sexual Deviant Behavior

Dear Director Washington,

As a result of MCO's review of the latest Department employee surveys and MCO's Member Outreach Tours, we have found that the membership continues to suffer from a severe morale issue.

Although there appears to be many factors that give rise to the morale problem, two issues stand out that can be rectified relatively easily.

Many members have reported that liquid / dress out assaults and sexual deviant behavior that go unprosecuted are a direct affront to personal dignity and professional respect.

As such, MCO has begun an initiative and met with the President of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) - Michael D. Wendling - and the Prosecutor of Ionia County, Ron Schafer to determine the frequency and process in which these types of incidents are handled internally and externally.

To our amazement, both indicated that these prosecutions do occur but vary wildly by facility and county. The main cause of the inconsistency appears to be a break down at the facility level that prevents such prosecutions from moving forward. After a very interesting discussion about the logistics of such prosecutions, we asked if PAAM would partner with MCO in order to promote the prosecution of such crimes against the dignity of our members state-wide. MCO was met with a resounding "yes". PAAM representatives empathized with our members' plight and agreed to do what they could to support their fellow law enforcement colleagues.

To that end, we are asking for a meeting with you to share our concerns and relay the valuable information given to us by PAAM. We believe that this initiative, which combats indignity from such assaults and deviant behavior, will raise morale in our membership and the employer's workforce.

It is our hope that the Department would be interested in providing input on this initiative to protect the dignity of Corrections Officers.

MCO's point of contact will be Andy Potter. We look forward to discussing this issue soon.

Best regards,

Tom Tylutki
President

Cc: Ken McKee, Deputy Director MDOC