



THE FORGOTTEN FRONTLINE: ESSENTIAL STAFF DESERVE ESSENTIAL RESPECT!

Email your legislators now to tell them we need premium pay, PPE, and more staff

Corrections officers and forensic security assistants have been on the frontlines during this pandemic, risking our lives. We need more staff, medical-grade PPE, and premium pay immediately.

If you agree, [please send an email to your Michigan state senator and representative now.](#)

Not a CO or FSA? [Family members, retirees, and other supporters may use this form](#) to email their legislators.

States like Michigan will be receiving federal relief money soon, and one of the possible uses of this funding is premium pay for essential staff. That's why we need all members to email their legislator now to ask them to set aside some funding for premium pay. After all, we've been risking our lives on the frontlines of COVID-19 for a full year.

Since launching this email campaign Tuesday, more than 1,000 emails have

been sent. This is a great start, but we need more people to step up and send the email. MCO leaders and staff have been advocating for premium pay, PPE, and more staff since the pandemic began, and we've had some successes. Our advocacy is strengthened when hundreds or thousands of our members back up our message with a quick email. It takes less than one minute – [please send an email now.](#)

AROUND THE STATE: SEVERAL ASSAULTS ON STAFF AT MARQUETTE, FORENSIC CENTER, SAGINAW

There have been four serious assaults on staff at MBP in the last three weeks.

The most recent was March 12 when prisoners jumped an officer and a lieutenant during yard. The officer had a fractured nose and hand. Both staff members were treated at a hospital and released. This assault may have been retaliation for a shakedown by the Emergency Response Team the previous day.

On March 7, an officer was assaulted by a Level V prisoner while he was conducting a cell shakedown. After being directed to exit the cell and report to the base, the prisoner came back to the cell and confronted the officer. When the officer picked up some contraband to remove it from the cell, the prisoner grabbed the officer's hand and then began punching him. The officer fought back and eventually pinned the prisoner down until assistance arrived. The officer went to a hospital and was released.

A few days before that, an inmate assaulted a counselor by reaching through his cell bars and trying to stab him. He was treated at a hospital and

released.

The first assault was Feb. 27. An officer was punched and stabbed with a sharpened weapon. See the [March 5 KYI](#) for more details.

Forensic security assistants (FSAs) have dealt with a rash of assaults by patients in the last month at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

In mid-February, an FSA suffered a foot fracture while trying to restrain a patient. About a week later, a patient punched an FSA while being restrained.

Then on March 18, an FSA was hit in the face and another was spit on.

An intoxicated prisoner assaulted two SRF officers earlier this week.

They have been treated at a hospital and released.

These stories are a stark reminder that corrections officers and forensic security assistants have dangerous jobs. Watch your back, watch your partner's back, and stay safe.

IN MEMORIAM: OFFICER RENO AND OFFICER FOX

Officer Marcell Reno of WHV passed away March 13.

Reno started with the MDOC in 2000.

His survivors include his daughter, father, brother, other family, friends, and coworkers.

A funeral service was Thursday.

Officer Douglas Fox, who worked at DRC, died March 15.

Fox had worked with the MDOC for more than 25 years.

Information on visitation and a memorial service is [here](#).

Please join us in wishing for peace for the family and friends of both of these officers. Rest in peace, CO Reno and CO Fox.

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