



## STAFFING CRISIS CONTINUES TO PLAGUE MDOC PRISONS

A report provided by the MDOC in December 2021 outlined that there were 944 correctional officer vacancies at that time. MCO estimates, given the current rate of retirement and attrition, this number will rise to over 1,000 officer vacancies by the end of January.

This staffing crisis continues to have a devastating and wide-ranging impact on the working conditions at the prisons. Facilities have been forced to increase mandated overtime, close multiple employee positions during shifts, restrict prisoner movement, and require officers to work in understaffed housing units. These conditions threaten to exhaust our

already beleaguered workforce and impair the safety of officers and the prison population.

During this month, there were ten facilities with staffing levels deemed low enough to give them “contingency” staffing status, easing the rules to allow COVID-positive employees to return to work five days after testing positive for COVID-19, even if they were still experiencing mild symptoms. This measure also allowed the facilities given “contingency” staffing status to close their leave books, disallowing officers who are not COVID-positive to use their paid leave time.

MCO President, Byron Osborn, has called on correctional officers working in state prisons to call their state legislators to make them aware of the working conditions employees are facing at facilities, and urge them to work with the union and the MDOC to find innovative solutions to address the officer recruitment and retention problem within the MDOC.

If you are an MCO member and would like to contact your [State Senator](#) and [State Representative](#), click the links provided to find your legislator.

## UPDATES...

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- The State Senate Oversight Committee will be holding a hearing to discuss staffing and other issues the MDOC is facing at **2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1** in Room 1300 at the Binsfeld Office Building. There will be a presentation from MDOC Director Heidi Washington.

- The State House Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections will be holding a committee hearing at **10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2** in Room 308 in the House Office Building to address staffing issues at the MDOC.

### CALENDARS

**Are you still waiting for your holiday mailing with the calendar book?** Additional books have been sent out to those members who have reported not getting the original shipment.

If you still need a calendar book, email [Adam Earley](#).

### EXCHANGE TRANSFER LIST

**The Exchange Transfer List will be cleared at the end of January.** If you requested to be placed on the list before July 2021, your name will be removed. If you do not want your name removed from the list, please e-mail [Jonovan Luckey](#) by January 31. [Click here for more information about the Exchange Transfer List.](#)

### COVID-19 RESOURCES

- At-home, rapid COVID-19 tests are available for free at [COVIDTests.gov](#). Every household is eligible for four free tests that will be shipped directly to your home.

\*If you do not have access to a computer, use the test kit order fulfillment helpline at **1-800-232-2033** to place your order.

## IN MEMORIAM...

Gone, but never forgotten. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**2022**

**January**

Officer Ben Gulick, DRF

**2021**

**December**

Officer Eric Napier, JCF  
Officer Cliff Branch, SLF  
Officer Dustin Hofert, ICF

**November**

Officer Armando Gonzales,  
MTU

**October**

Officer Mike Davis, JCF

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS

ORGANIZATION

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