

View results

Respondent

26

Anonymous

34:28

Time to complete

Inspection Information

1. Location *

Men's Central Jail

2. Date of Previous Inspection *

10/9/2023



3. Date of this Inspection *

4/17/2024



4. Time *

1:45pm

5. Location

Courts

Jails

Sheriff Station

Location



6. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) *

- ☐ Ingrid Archie
- ☐ Haley Broder
- ☐ Norma Cumpian
- ☐ Wynter Daggs
- ☐ Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson
- ☐ Bob Frutos
- ☐ Dr. Cheryl N. Grills
- ☒ Eric J. Miller
- ☐ Raymond Regalado
- ☐ Alexander Sherman
- ☐ Joahanna Terrones
- ☒ Mary Veral
- ☐ Other

Facility Information

7. Facility Name *

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

Men's Central Jail

8. Facility Address *

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

441 Bauchet Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012 General

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted *

Lieutenant Vu; Lieutenant Short

10. Census: Capacity *

4800

11. Current Census *

4051

12. Location(s) Inspected: *

6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, 3000 FL mess hall, 3907 room and 3000 floor Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms

13. Issues reported to (Select all that Apply): *

☐ BOS

☒ Officer in Charge

☐ LASD

☐ ISD

☐ OIG

☐ COC

☐ Other

14. Name of the person(s) issues were reported to: *

Lieutenant Short

15. Contact Information of the person(s) contacted: *

RFshort@lasd.org

Conditions of Confinement

16. **Condition of Confinement:** Cells/Toilets/Sinks

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

17. **Condition of Confinement COMMENTS RE:** Cells/Toilets/Sinks

No hot water in 6502

18. **Condition of Confinement:** Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

19. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

Dirty showers in the 3500 block

20. **Condition of Confinement:** Crowding

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

21. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Crowding

Individuals who were classified K10 according to their jail bracelets and so should have been assigned single cells with televisions and commissary were assigned to an area with no commissary, television, nor property. These men had the property they had bought taken from them.

22. **Condition of Confinement:** Cleanliness/Graffiti

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

23. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Cleanliness/Graffiti

In every dormitory we visited, there was trash covering the floors and the floors were not clean and the jail in general manifested a severe lack of sanitation.

24. **Condition of Confinement:** Safety, Conflict, Tension

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

25. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Safety, Conflict, Tension

we witnessed Sheriff Deputy threaten to retaliate against the men housed in 7000 unit in front of their sergeant; we also witnessed the prohibition of purchasing batteries from all but a small proportion of the men incarcerated in the jails which the men said raised their stress levels, undermining their mental health, despite there being other means of responding to safety concerns regarding fires in the jail, and despite there being a pervasive smell of smoke and burning in the jail.

26. **Condition of Confinement:** Common Areas

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

27. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Common Areas

The mess hall on the 3000 floor was the severely unsanitary, with food detritus on chairs, tables, and in a cart in the middle of the room, a cupboard in the 7000 block had food left to rot inside it, a room in 3907 had toilets that were covered in black fungus or mold and stank, and the floors of 3100, 3300, 3500, and 7000 were covered with trash.

28. **Condition of Confinement:** Air Quality/Temperature

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

29. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Air Quality/Temperature

The men in 7000 claimed there was no air circulating and they found it hard to breathe. They had ended a hunger strike to complain about the conditions because the Lieutenant had allowed the men to keep their food/cuffing hatches open. While we were present, a sergeant appeared, closed the hatches, and announced that a captain had rescinded the lieutenant's policy.

30. **Condition of Confinement:** Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

31. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

A deputy retaliated against the men in the 7000 block. The prohibition on batter purchases appears to be retaliatory.

32. **Condition of Confinement:** Strip Search Issues

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

33. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Drinking Water)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

34. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

35. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

The Hunter Library had leaks in the ceiling.

36. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Toilets for Common Room)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

37. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☒ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

38. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

The commissioners reported at least one person who lacked toothpaste in the 3500 unit.

39. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

40. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Legal Counsel)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

41. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Visitation, Correspondence)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

42. **Condition of Confinement:** Solitary Confinement

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

43. **Condition of Confinement:** Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

44. **Condition of Confinement:** Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

45. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)

The CPAP men housed in 6500 lacked ADA compliant showers and one lacked a wheelchair, which impeded his ability to attend court.

46. **Condition of Confinement:** Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint, developmental disability)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

47. **Condition of Confinement:** Complaint Procedure (e.g., Deputy, Medical Complaints - Confidential Procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

48. **Condition of Confinement:** Fees Assessed/ Money on Books

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

49. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Fees Assessed/ Money on Books

Men housed in the 3500 unit who were given a K10 classification lost the property they had bought

50. **Condition of Confinement:** Other

51. **Condition of Confinement:** Other

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Nutrition

52. **Nutrition:** Quality/Concerns

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

53. **Nutrition COMMENT RE:** Quality/Concerns

Men on the 7000 block and 3000 block complained their food was served cold.

54. **Nutrition:** Access to special diets

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

Trustees

55. **Trustees:** Quarters

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

56. **Trustees:** Training and Selection

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

57. **Trustees:** Workload and Hours

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

58. **Trustees:** Calculation/Time Served

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

Medical Services

59. **Medical Services**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TB and Other Medical Screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infectious Disease Protocol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

60. **COMMENTS RE:** Medical

Mental Health

61. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treatment Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment Procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

62. COMMENTS RE: Mental Health

Telephones

63. Telephones

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Functionality	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

64. COMMENTS RE: Telephones

We primarily checked on the telephones in 6500 and 7000 and observed functioning telephones and the men had access to them.

Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

65. Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

66. **COMMENTS RE:** EBI Programming

The rooms in which the men receive education based incarceration were moldy.

67. **EBI:** Volunteer Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

68. **COMMENTS RE EBI:** Volunteer Services

Clean Clothing and Bedding

69. **Clean Clothing and Bedding** (including laundry practices)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

70. **COMMENTS RE: Clean Clothing and Bedding** (including laundry practices)

The mattresses in 6500 and 3000 did not have a non-absorbent plastic cover and were not changed weekly as required by Title 15.

Facilities/Maintenance

71. **Facilities/Maintenance:** Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

72. **Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE:** Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

73. **Facilities/Maintenance:** Kitchen/Laundry

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Deputy Staffing

74. **Deputy Staffing:** Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

75. **Deputy Staffing COMMENTS RE:** Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

76. **Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:**

77. **Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:**

78. **Prior Corrective Action Resolution:**

79. **Detainee Documentations** (e.g., intake/release, procedures):

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Logs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Detainee management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exit interview - policies/procedure grievances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generated funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

80. **Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:**

81. **Discipline Proceedings:**

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Inspection: Special Focus

82. Inspection: Special Focus

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
COC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DMH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DPH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OIG	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

83. Inspection: Special Focus Request (Select all that Apply):

☐ COC

☐ Community

☐ CHS

☐ DMH

☐ DPH

☒ Facilities

☐ Food Services

☐ OIG

☐ N/A

☐ Other

84. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

85. **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:**

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106

86. Inspection Detail for #:

87. Inspection Detail for #:

88. Inspection Detail for #:

89. Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to:

90. Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to:

91. Inspection Detail for **Community Request** Related to:

92. **Inspection Detail:** EBI

93. **Inspection Detail:** Medical

94. **Inspection Detail:** Medical

95. **Inspection Detail:** Building and Maintenance *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Lawns
- ☐ Recreation Area
- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Asphalt
- ☐ General Condition
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Roof
- ☐ Drains/Gutters
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

96. **Inspection Detail:** Building and Maintenance

INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)

97. **Inspection Detail:** Interior of Building(s) and Maintenance *(Select all that apply)*

- ☒ Walls
- ☐ Paint
- ☒ Floors
- ☐ Drains
- ☐ Plumbing fixtures working
- ☒ Air Vents
- ☐ Windows
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

98. Inspection Detail **Interior of Building:**

The facility floors were filthy, the air ventilation in 7500 was not working, and the walls had concrete crumbling off.

99. Are Cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

100. Weapons locker present?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

101. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

102. Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

103. Holding areas (cells/rooms), is there access to drinking water and toilet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

104. Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

The floors are filthy.

105. Beds - Type of bed and is it off the floor?

106. Adequate lighting:

107. Temperature:

108. Narrative Report

109. Narrative Continued

Commissioners Miller and Veral visited areas: 6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, 3000 FL mess hall, 3907 room and 3000 floor Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms.

Men's Central Jail is a disintegrating and poorly maintained building. As early as 2014, the Department of Justice described the living conditions at Men's Central Jail as "deficient (dimly lit, vermin-infested, noisy, unsanitary, cramped and crowded)...and create an environment that may contribute to prisoners' mental distress." Letter from U.S. Department of Justice, Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention Practices at Los Angeles County Jails (June 4, 2014). According to the September 3, 2015, Joint Settlement Agreement Regarding the Los Angeles County Jails; and Stipulated Order of Resolution entered into by the Department of Justice and Los Angeles County before Judge Dean Pregerson, "the County and the Sheriff will have written housekeeping, sanitation, and inspection plans to ensure the proper cleaning of, and trash collection and removal in housing...areas, in accordance with California Code of Regulations ("CCR") Title 15 § 1280: Facility Sanitation, Safety, and Maintenance." Title 15 is, however, somewhat vague. Section 1280 requires written policies and procedures that "shall provide for a regular schedule of housekeeping tasks and inspections to identify and correct unsanitary...conditions."

Despite the last decade of warnings and litigation, the problems of dimly lit, vermin-infested, noisy, and unsanitary conditions with inadequate trash collection and removal in housing dorms, last year this Commission reported to the Board of Supervisors its "alarm[] and frustrat[ion] with the regularity with which it finds unsafe, inhumane, and unsanitary conditions in the jails. The recurrence of issues after this Commission brings them to the attention of responsible parties at the Sheriff's Department is evidence of problems not being adequately addressed...The Sheriff's Department's failure to maintain a sanitary facility and to conduct regular inspections of its facilities for sanitary conditions reflects an administrative orientation with a limited commitment to upholding basic values." Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections Report & Recommendations on the Los Angeles County Jails Humanitarian Crisis July 2023 at 4, 22.

Clearly, the system of relying on trustees and outside contractors to clean Men's Central Jail abjectly fails to ensure sanitary conditions in those areas of the jail occupied by incarcerated men. LASD does keep the areas of the jail occupied by Sheriff Deputies and civilian staff clean. The rest of the jail requires a concerted and consistent effort to bring up to even minimal standards of cleanliness. Since at least 2014, various groups including the Department of Justice, the Central District of California, the ACLU, and the Sybil Brand Commission have pointed out the severe, prolonged lack of sanitation in Men's Central Jail. We note that federal law establishes such conditions "constitute an infliction of pain within the meaning of the Eighth Amendment." Johnson v. Lewis, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2000)

Our most recent inspection of Men's Central Jail, which covered 6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, and 3000 FL mess hall along with the Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms, revealed disgusting, unsanitary conditions in the areas occupied and used by the men incarcerated in that facility. The condition of these areas contrasts with the relatively clean areas occupied by the Sheriffs and suggest that the Sheriff's Department can and does keep the jail clean in those areas it wants to and deliberately neglects the other parts of the jail.

We shall now focus on the specific areas that the Commissioners visited.

6050

People in 6050 are GP but use CPAPs. They had recently moved to this area from the

110. Narrative Continued

7000 floor. The cells are organized so that there are 8 people to a cell. However, moving incarcerated people to this location solely on the basis of their medical condition imposed some new restriction including lack of access to the library. Furthermore, despite the medical justification for the move, the cells were not properly fitted out for people with disabilities. For example, one man in the module did have a wheelchair and said he had difficulty transferring when he takes a shower. The shower had a lip and did not appear to be ADA-compliant. There was no hot water in cell 6052. There is a large brown stain on the wall outside the 6050 module. It appears to be a result of a large water leak through the ceiling. The brown stain has been on the wall during previous MCJ inspections. A couple of people reported they were concerned about retaliation for talking to us. Further evidence of retaliation were provided in complaints about the arbitrary allocation of wheelchairs. One gentleman in 6050 has a walker because the Sheriffs refuse to give him a wheelchair for court. As a result, he reported he has missed three court dates. 7000 Leaking ceiling in the hallway Highpower/hard cells: The Commissioners visited the 7000 Block cells to check on a reported hunger strike. This row is for individuals who have medical issues, and the Sheriffs designate as a K10 classification under the LASD Special Handling Codes (Court Services Division §2-07/015.10), which means that they are a "High Jail Security Risk...who...require administrative segregation from the general population at all times." The 7000 unit is not a disciplinary area, but it appears to be treated as such. A deputy unlocked the large metal door to let us access this row when he was doing his 30-minute security walk. Besides some light TV noise, neither Commissioner Veral nor Commissioner Miller could not hear anything on the row until the large door was open. Upon entering the row, the Commissioners observed water dripping from the ceiling, a hole in high in the wall in the middle of the unit where the concrete had crumbled away, and food all over the floor. The people incarcerated in this unit complained that the Sheriffs allowed trash to accumulate for days at a time. One Deputy showed the Commissioners a cupboard where food seemed to have been shoved under the door and left to rot. People here reported they do not get access to programming of any kind, and they don't get out of their cells at all. The cells do not have emergency call buttons so given their medical issues, they wanted to be able to alert for help if something happened. Deputies are on this row two times per hour, however, as we have consistently observed at County jail facilities, the security checks we observed were very brief and perfunctory. When we walked in, there was trash everywhere. People complained that minimal air circulates in their cells, so they wanted the tray slots open. When these slots were closed, the men had gone on hunger strike: the men stopped the strike because a Lieutenant let the men keep them open, so they weren't "enforcing" the policy. During our visit, six deputies appeared including a sergeant to inform the incarcerated men that a captain had decided to overturn the open-slot policy. The sudden appearance of five deputies and a sergeant seemed odd: the deputies were not taking anyone out of the cells and some of the deputies were hanging outside the unit. It appeared to the Commissioners that our presence had drawn the attention of the deputies to the unit. The deputies told the people incarcerated that they needed to close the tray slots, per the unit order and "the Captain's orders." One gentleman refused to close the slot because he could not get air in his cell. Deputy Cruz became very aggressive with this man right in front of us. One man complained that, if the people in the unit tried to alert the Sheriffs to an emergency, there was no way the

111. Narrative Continued

Sheriffs could hear. Deputy Cruz then threatened to turn off all the television channels so that there would be no noise. This threat of retaliation was very disturbing to witness, especially because the Commissioners, as observers, were standing right next to the Sheriffs and the Sergeant did not object to this retaliatory threat. When we reported the incident to the Watch Commander, he did condemn the behavior: however, part because the deputy should "know your audience," suggesting that part of the problem was retaliating in front of the Commissioners. The Commissioners are very concerned for how people are treated when we are not present.

3100/3300

In June 2023 SBC commissioners witnessed fires in cells and brought the issue to the attention of LASD in hopes they would take steps to ensure the safety of people incarcerated and working inside of Men's Central Jail. LASD has not done anything to address the issue except to take away batteries from everyone incarcerated in the jail except a few people in the 1700 and 1750 units. People in the 3100 and 3300 rows get very limited out of cell time and the batteries for their "radios" or MP3 players, and which also provides a channel that enables them to listen to the television. Their radios are one of the few things they can purchase to help with their mental health by providing music and entertainment while they are confined in their cell. Without batteries they are useless. The Commission previously reported the fires previously occurring in a different area of the jail, not the K10 area we visited. The Commission also reported that the fires were often used to heat food; the men we spoke to suggested they also needed the extra heat to keep warm. There are a variety of actions that could have been taken to ensure that fires were dealt with: frequent inspections should disclose the source of fires; providing food heaters and extra blankets are other options. The Watch Commander did not explain adequately why prohibiting the purchase of batteries was the only possible response to the issue of fires: instead, the LASD's response that appears to have been taken in requital of the Commissioner's report about the fires (which was also reported in the LA Times).

Despite the battery confiscation, during this visit, the Commissioners noted a strong smell of smoke during this inspection when walking the modules and when walking through the main corridor outside the watch commander's office. It is very disturbing that SBC raised an issue, and the only response was to take things from people incarcerated, rather than increasing supervision or installing fire alarms.

3000 Mess Hall

Title 15, § 1245. Kitchen Facilities, Sanitation, and Food Storage requires that "food preparation, service, and storage shall comply with standards set forth in Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 7, Chapters 1-13, Sections 113700 et seq. California Retail Food Code." However, the Mess Hall was in a disgraceful state. The Mess Hall was empty: no-one was there to clean it. Food scraps covered tables and chairs around the Hall. A pile of cooked rice with some kind of sauce was on a cart in the middle of the room with a swarm of flies all around it. The Commissioners found rat traps placed along three of the walls. A concrete column in the middle of the Hall was crumbling, and there was water leaking through the roof.

Hunter's Library and the two Education Based Incarceration classrooms that we visited had leaks in ceiling and the classroom ceiling were covered with mold.

3907

This is a set of rooms behind a door on the 3000 floor. We went inside and there was standing water in a toilet that was dark brown and smelled like mold. There was also a full trash bin and other trash strewn about. Commissioner Veral almost threw up from the smell.

3500

A row - Shower was dirty and there was trash in the row. There were open milk containers and plastic all over the floor.

This is an

112. Narrative Continued

administrative-segregation area where some men are housed while classification is still being determined. However, some of the men were housed because of their K10 classification and the fact that there was nowhere else to put them. That meant that men with commissary privileges and property that they had bought had their property taken from them: the only property given to the men housed in 3500 were the "fish" kits, which are small hygiene given to incarcerated people. One man claimed that he had \$350 worth of property taken from him upon his move to 3500.

The people in this unit do not get access to phones, commissary or television. Some people are here for over 30 days. It was understood why the phones and movement are restricted, but it was not clear to commissioners why people cannot get televisions in this module. This is not supposed to be disciplinary but it felt like it.

One man had just arrived in this row from the hospital, and he did not have toothpaste. This was reported to the W/C. He also reported he had been housed previously at NCCF and was transported to USC hospital for a chest x-ray. He spent four days in the urgent care and hospital before being sent to MCJ for processing. Commissioners are following up individually with LASD regarding this process.

In the 3000 block, the men lacked clean mattresses. Title 15, § 1271 requires that each man in the jail receive "one serviceable mattress which meets the requirements of Section 1272 of these regulations...Washable items such as sheets, mattress covers, and towels shall be exchanged for clean replacement at least once each week." Section 1272 requires that "Any mattress issued to an inmate in any facility shall be enclosed in an easily cleaned, non-absorbent ticking." The men in 3500 claimed that their mattresses were changed only every two weeks, and in the 3000 block, none of the mattresses appeared to have the non-absorbent plastic covers observed elsewhere in the jails. Instead, the mattresses appeared to be foam with a stretch cotton mattress cover on top. The men complained about the unclean and dilapidated state of the mattresses.

113. Narrative Continued