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Respondent

38

Anonymous

100:10

Time to complete

## Inspection Information

1. Location \*

Los Angeles Superior Court - Van Nuys Courthouse

2. Date of Previous Inspection \*

9/16/2024



3. Date of this Inspection \*

9/16/2024



4. Time \*

9:00AM - 10:30AM

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/>

Los Angeles Superior Court - Van Nuys Courthouse

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/>

6230 Sylmar Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91401

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted \*

Sergeant Octavio Ramirez, Employee #507736

10. Census: Capacity \*

NA

11. Current Census \*

NA

12. Location(s) Inspected: \*

Bus unloading area, Main lock up, 3rd, 6th & 8th floors

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: \*

Sergeant Octavio Ramirez

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

No card, Employee # 507736

## Conditions of Confinement

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

18. **Condition of Confinement:** Crowding

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

overwhelming scratched in graffiti on the walls in the general population area on the 8th floor

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

Only thin pads available (kept in employee break room/kitchen), no tampons available, no variation of flow level for menstrual products. No soap. No hygiene kits on site.

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

34. **Condition of Confinement:** Solitary Confinement

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

40. **Condition of Confinement:** Other

41. **Condition of Confinement:** Other

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

## Nutrition

42. **Nutrition:** Quality/Concerns

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

Only provided peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, if there is a special need the incarcerated person needs to advocate for that prior to coming to the court. The Sgt shared he rarely sees anyone with any other accommodation meal-wise. There is no variation in the meal served. Individuals coming for week (or more) long trials only have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available to them for the entire time. There is no meals served on-site.

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable



above

## Trustees

46. **Trustees:** Quarters

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

47. **Trustees:** Training and Selection

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

48. **Trustees:** Workload and Hours

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

## Medical Services

## 50. Medical Services

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

## 51. COMMENTS RE: Medical

They had 4 safety kits, recently replaced, on site. If there is a medical emergency, they call the paramedics and wait for the paramedics to arrive. No medical services on site.

## Mental Health

## 52. Mental Health Services

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

## 53. COMMENTS RE: Mental Health

No mental health professionals on site.

## Telephones

54. **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"/>

55. **COMMENTS RE: Telephones**

sample phone was operational (English and Spanish available)

Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

56. **Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)**

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

57. **COMMENTS RE: EBI Programming**

58. **EBI: Volunteer Services**

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

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

Clean Clothing and Bedding

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

### Facilities/Maintenance

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

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

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

64. **Facilities/Maintenance:** Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

### Deputy Staffing

65. **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 checked="" type="radio"/>
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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

Saw few interactions between incarcerated individuals and deputies during our inspection

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

Did not speak to anyone in custody

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

NA

69. **Prior Corrective Action Resolution:**

NA

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

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Logs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Detainee management	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/>
Generated funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

71. **Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:**

magnets on cells to specify who where for the day

72. **Discipline Proceedings:**

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

73. **Emergency Preparedness/Systems:**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Fire Extinguishers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Airpack Tags	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Evacuation Routes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Control Centers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Lighting Fixtures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety Drills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
First Aid and Suicide Kits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

74. **Emergency Preparedness/Systems COMMENTS:**

Recently replaced tanks

75. **Grounds:**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Conditions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

76. **Grounds COMMENTS:**

77. 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 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"/>

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

- COC
- Community
- CHS
- DMH
- DPH
- Facilities
- Food Services
- OIG
- N/A
- Other

79. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

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

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

81. **Other:**

Displayed clearly on every floor

**INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106**

82. Inspection Detail for #:

83. Inspection Detail for #:

84. Inspection Detail for #:

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

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

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

88. **Inspection Detail:** EBI

89. **Inspection Detail:** Medical



90. **Inspection Detail:** Medical

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

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

92. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

**INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)**

93. **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

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

Cleaned daily by external service.

Immense graffiti on 8th floor needs to be addresses.

HVAC works well and keeps the building very cool. Individuals in custody sometimes get too cold and make paper towel wads to try and cover up the vents. Those were still there during inspection, despite no one in that holding area that day.

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

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Did not see them.

96. Weapons locker present?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

97. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

NA

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

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

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

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

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

Satisfactory. No beds. Only abler to access water from sink connected to toilet no way to get or buy bottled water. Water was clear. Relatively clean.

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

No beds in any of the holding area.

102. Adequate lighting:

Dim in the control room and bottom floor where individuals are first brought in.

103. Temperature:

HVAC works very well and was on high. Employees under blankets.

#### 104. Narrative Report

Solely a cash facility. Waiting on the software to go cashless. Have an ATM on site to accomodate.

Sgt Ramirez immediately locked up weapon and phone before going back and walking us through the process an individual in custody will experience from bus arrival, to trial/hearing, and back.

Special holding: The expectation is that individuals in custody come to the courthouse with their own food and labeled medication. The arrival process takes about 30 minutes to unload the bus, with 2 to 4 individuals on one chain at a time, and then move into their respective holding facility, ensuring K12 (individuals with severe mental illness or who are on suicide watch) and K6Bs (individuals who are "green lit" need separation for protection) can be in respective holding areas. With "specials" they are able to hold 50-60 individuals (if all gen pop, ~200-300 could be held). Women held separately. No female identifying persons seen in custody on our inspection.

K12: There was one individual held independently because of a K12 suicide watch classification. This individual was in a "suicidal gown" and topless. This individual is required to appear in court in the gown and without a shirt.

Transportation: They expect their first bus at 7AM, and usually get 2 late buses around 8:15AM and 10:30AM. LASD employees believe that the late busses are due to 1) bus shortage (belief that this spiked in 2018) and 2) miss outs due to individuals not wanting to come to court. When asked why Sgt Ramirez believed individual in custody might not want to come to court, he shared that he feels there is a need for better education for people in custody to better understand the judicial process, and what "pre-trial" specifically.

Menstrual products: They had one box of thin lined pads kept in their employee break room. They do not have tampons or pads for various flows available. Given upon request.

Food & medication: Sgt Ramirez specifically asked us to report a concern regarding the lack of variety of food for individuals in custody coming to the courthouse holding area, specifically when some folks are brought back a week, or more, straight. Deputies provide cups for individuals to get water from the sink. Bottled water is not given or available for purchase. Deputies do not monitor whether individuals in custody are taking medication at all or on time. That is the responsibility of the individual. Medicine is kept on their person and brought over from the facility there are housed. They do not have masks available if requested. People are expected to bring from the facility they were transported from

Staffing: Well staffed for the number of individuals in custody that day. Employee reported much slower than other facilities of previous assignments, much slower than prior to the pandemic, significant decrease in LASD transfers, and not often crowded. If they have a busier day they plaintiffs will fill in. They have Spanish translators on site daily.

Facilities: Toilets and sinks works, water was clear, and all but 1 tested phone was in working condition. Both sets of elevators in working condition and have cage inside to separate deputies from the in custody individual. PREA was clearly displayed on every floor.

Programs: have a early disposition and rapid aversion program.

Cells: Almost every inch of the 8th floor gen pop holding area was covered in graffiti scratched into the walls.

Concerns highlight by Sgt: lack of variety of food and the need for better education for the individuals in custody to better understand the process they are in

#### 105. Narrative Continued

#### 106. Narrative Continued

#### 107. Narrative Continued

#### 108. Narrative Continued

#### 109. Narrative Continued

#### 110. Overall, how would you rate this facility? \*

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory