

**Name:** Kezlyn Mendez  
**Title:** Incarcerated individual  
**Organization or Agency:** DOC CT  
**Topic:** Meeting Date Not Listed  
NA

**Testimony:**

I am writing this testimony sharing my concerns of the action and efforts of the ombudsman in place Devaugh Ward. First impressions are everything and Mr. Ward's, first impression in my opinion was of a person who had good intentions yet very lost and out of place, I honestly don't feel that he is ready for this position inside the CTDOC due to the extensive duties and word required and attention needed to accomplish and bring change. Yes I know and am very aware of the lack of help he has to bring such change and with that being said he shouldn't have proceeded in his placed position by the Governor without the proper personnel to perform his duties appropriately.

I honestly feel that if the position was given to Barbara Fair, that my testimony and others would be much more different due to her experience with fighting the CTDOC and her having a expectation from those placing her in a position and the necessary required personnel and access into the facilities in order to establish healthy connection with the incarcerated individuals in order for there to be accurate information to act on and correct. I haven't seen or heard from Mr. Ward since his first and only walk through with the facility months ago.

Honestly I can do a better job than he can due to my knowledge of how the Warden's and Commissioner's play sword games and cover things up within the facility, like for instance... every nice weekend unless its a holiday and the officers can get time and a half they call out and we are on some kind of lock down and our visits with our loved ones are taken...They also tend to throw retirement parties for officers and take our rec so officers can eat and socialize at work with each other, while we sit in our cells without our showers or outta cell time and visits. Another thing every day there is some kind of issue with outside rec which is our protected right under the state law of one hour of out of cell physical exercise, the officer gets pulled and we don't get our outside rec for our physical movement and exercise and the unit managers are well aware of these issues...yet is the Ombudsman aware as well because he should be if he is doing his job and it should have been stopped, addressed, and corrected immediately. Affirmative Action brings results and those are facts, it seems to have gotten worse and the Commissioner, Warden, and Co's are getting away with much more, yet the loved ones of the incarcerated who drive afar some with children who look forward to those visits are the ones who are punished as well as the incarcerated... So WHAT CHANGE has Mr. Ward brought with him thus far because I haven't heard or seen any as of yet...unless I missed something and the notice put out.

This fight against the CTDOC in order to bring change is for the strong and understanding of those within these walls dealing with the heart ache, mental, psychological torment by Co's, abuse, and emotional struggles of up's and down's each day...not the individuals looking for a pay check, position and recognition of some sort, this is a fight for the dedicated, passionate for what they do fighting for the incarcerated, FORCING CHANGE LIKE BARBARA FAIR, and team....not the Controlled or Puppet.

In Solidarity Strong

Kezlyn Mendez