

**Name:** Carl Tomlin

**Title:**

**Organization or Agency:**

**Topic:** Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

**Testimony:**

Hi my name is Carl Tomlin, I've been incarcerated since 2011 I'm currently incarcerated at Osborn CI and have been since 2021.

Thank you for letting me voice my concerns, I have 3.

(1). The first would be the extreme heat in the summer months, many times I would be woken up out of my sleep because it feels like I'm being suffocated. The cell is so hot it literally feels like there is no air in the cell to breathe, throughout the night I have to constantly get up to drink some water from my sink and wet a towel to lay across my stomach and chest in order to fall asleep for a few hours before my cellmate and I would have to repeat the process.

The D.O.C. staff does pass out three 5 gallon coolers of water when they feel it's needed, but I'm housed in H-block, the biggest cell block in the prison with over 110 to 115 people here.

We use our cups from commissary which are about 16oz. The average person gets about 2 cups of water at a time but if it's really hot, people get more. There has never been a time when the whole block got water because it's gone in a matter of minutes from the time it's dropped off, it's simply not enough water to go around so if your side is not out the cell for recreation when they bring the water you're just not going to get any water until they bring the next jugs which is hours later.

(2) My second concern is the rat infestation in the chow hall.

It's not uncommon to see a rat dead on a trap or alive running in the chow hall. There are rat droppings on the window sills and small piles in corners and alongside the radiator.

It's a permanent dead rodent smell in the chow hall. In the winter, the staff opens most of the windows to air out the chow hall, but in the summer with the heat in, all the smell is unbearable.

I hear the stories from the inmate kitchen workers telling us how bad the rats are and the food that they get into which still gets passed out to us which is disheartening and angering. I personally only eat the lunch and give my other trays away because of the infestation. I mostly survive off the ultra processed food from commissary which is just as bad but I have no other choice.

(3) My last concern I will keep short, I don't want to take too much of your time.

The showers rooms from the ceilings and walls have black mold on them. In conjunction to not having any barriers to block you from having to wash yourself in front of 6 other men, the shower heads are so close together the person that's washing on the side of you their dirty water and soap splashes all over you I mean you don't know what a person has like a skin problem or something else.

If D.O.C. could install shower curtains or dividers for the shower that can help out tremendously.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards, Carl Tomlin.