

Name: José Garcia

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

The need for an ombudsman is crucial in the state of CT. The lack of oversight has cost tax payers millions of dollars over fraudulent economic spending and unnecessary lawsuits that could have been prevented if oversight was present and accountability enforced. The lack of oversight has emboldened the Department of Corrections personnel to disregard their own policy and procedures that has led to civil violations as well as criminal acts within the department.

These civil violations and criminal acts include but are not limited to the following:

From failure to enforce policy and procedures from The Commissioner of Corrections position as well as Wardens, Captains, LT's, correctional officers, medical and mental health personnel colluding with custody. The lack of oversight has given these individuals a sense of security within their job due to lack of oversight and accountability. Moreover, the Department of Correction has disregarded their mission statement to uphold the law as well as keep Correctional Staff, inmates, and the General public safe which is of the most utmost importance.

Prime example of failure to keep staff, inmates, and the general public safe is what happened to correctional officer Raccaculia. This officer was assaulted due to the lack of security cameras that had a blind spot which led to her being assaulted and almost killed because of the delayed response. The incompetence of officials who constantly paraphrase safety and security in every opportunity to further their penological interest and personal agendas failed their mission promise to staff, inmates, and the general public.

The Department of Correction leadership and lack of vision to foresee such an obvious gap in their security measures allowed a breach within these walls that almost cost the life of one of their own. Also, to allow an inmate with a serious history of sexual assault to work in such a lax environment where tools of the trade could be utilized as a weapon is a serious lack of competence where "safety and security" should be implemented with prudence.

Then the Department of Corrections in retaliation sent the inmate to another facility where it is common knowledge she/ the correctional officer has a family working there. Now the inmate is dead and the department of correction is under investigation once again. To further elaborate on the manner in which the department of correction has operated in the past and continues to operate at this very location, look at my personal experience.

I was set up with medication that was supposedly a wellbutrin medication that turned out to be an ibuprofen 600. (I have a picture to prove this.) I then was sprayed with chemical agent 3 times even though i am on camera stating to the Supervisory official that i am asthmatic and if sprayed i would sue. His response is of someone who is aware that there is lack of oversight and accountability (see reports and request for the video content which is evidence in my legal action).

I was only decontaminated for less than 30 seconds with a veil still over my head leaving me to breathe with difficulty due to my asthma. A DOC official then led me to be four pointed without removing my clothes for 2 hours. In those 2 hours I was assaulted/almost killed. I wrote and submitted a grievance which was denied which is common practice but at the very least should have led to an investigation. But supervisory officials covered it up by getting rid of the physical evidence and video that should have

been preserved by Policy and procedures in their directive (see Directive 6.9 Collection and Retention of Contraband) and Physical evidence which correlates section 2. Reference and Authority, A-J which emphasis is the rule of law that DOC official totally disregarded.

This led me to become further depressed which led me to an attempted suicide by swallowing a piece of metal. Instead of medical personnel sending me to an outside hospital they placed me back in segregation without placing me on suicide watch because it would have exposed my injuries. Medical and mental health colluded with correctional staff by withholding medical and mental health by delaying to send me to an outside hospital til my injuries were no longer visible. However, in the handheld video taken during the incident it clearly shows injuries to my face. Medical documents will show that medical personnel perjured herself on official reports and refused to acknowledge the injuries even when the hand held video clearly shows facial lacerations within seconds of her clearing me to be placed in segregation once again.

Also, supervisory officials were contacted by a doctor to place me in a dry cell on September 16, 2021 only to be ignored. The medical provider responsible for my care in her own reports put: dry cell status per custody on September 17, 2021. Only to change it on September 21, 2021 a day prior to actually being placed on drycell status.(see medical reports).

I have taken legal action which is currently making up the way through the judicial process. If interested please go to court records and look up : 3:22-CV-01328(SFR). I have also submitted these reports to the ombudsman's office and have been waiting for a response. These reports also have been submitted to trooper c LT. Joseph Hayward who forwarded the investigation to trooper Imelio badge 1016 who is investigating these claims.

I also am in the process of submitting the same evidence to the Inspector General's office In the upcoming days. Please review my truth affidavit and look at my evidence and medical records and you will see the injustice that has occurred to me as a gateway to how the department of corrections has operated out of lack of proper oversight and leadership. I have also been placed back at the very location where this happened and continue to fear for my life as well as continue to be harassed by the same individuals and their coworkers... if you have any questions as to any of my claims feel free to contact me.