

Name: Terrell Jackson

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

My name is Terrell Jackson, I have been incarcerated for 28 years. During this time I have seen many changes behind these walls.

The very top problem is " THE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY ". Which makes trying to Transform, difficult to achieve. Another issue in the prison system is the price gouging, from the businesses that conduct business within the prison system.

As far as ACCOUNTABILITY, the only ones who are held to this, are the inmates. We have a rule book that we are giving and even have to sign to say we received it. These rules are to be followed to every letter of the word. Any infractions, one can lose contact with family and/or Segregation.

Meanwhile, these guards have a code of conduct. When we have a bad altercation with them, we have to write them up to the person they have been working with for years. A person whom they have to fight side by side with, in a code. We need (someone that's neutral) a person who is not so invested in either side, to investigate our complaints about guards. The Ombudsman can't fight the small fights, it's too many for one person.

On the topic of ACCOUNTABILITY, these guards are on their cell phone way too much. To a point they get mad at prisoners for asking them to do their job, cause we are interrupting their phone call. They are on a cell phone that is illegal for a guard to even bring in a prison. It violates the code of conduct, which no one seems to address. The higher ups, in every jail knows this is going on. Yet, it keeps happening. No ACCOUNTABILITY.

A law passed to give prisoners more time out their cell, to eliminate the animalistic treatment. IF YOU TREAT A PERSON LIKE AN ANIMAL, THEY WILL LET THAT SINK INTO THEIR PERSONALITY AND BRING THAT CHARACTER INTO SOCIETY. This jail and other jails find ways to take away that time out the cell away from us. They use a security threat, yet when the threat is over, jail don't open up.

This money gouging is terrible. I been incarcerated for 28 years, as stated earlier. The pay for work has continued to be 75¢ a day. Depending on your work status, you can go up on pay (very few jobs with top pay). The price of groceries continue to raise but the pay remains the same. We are paying 257.00 for a television that cost 30.00 in the free world. They are also selling us defective ear plugs (the only way to use our tablet).

So, we end up having to buy 4 pairs of earplugs in a month, at 6.00 a piece. Knowing they will break in a minute or so. The price in commissary done went up so much, when we purchase half of the cosmetics we need, there is no money to buy food. Which is making other violent prisoners resort to harming others for their food. Those who are fortunate enough to have family send them money, are at danger cause they have food in their cell.

The state of Connecticut should not have one company who supply food to the jails. There should be a competitive company who we can decide what price is best for us. One company monopolizes the prices and have the attitude "BUY OR NOT". The pain falls on family, who have their own life to support.

FOOD IN THE PRISON SYSTEM: is not the best as it is. When it isn't SAFESERV official, the food becomes a dangerous tool. Which is one of the reasons why there are so many trips to medical. The food is cooked at a safe temperature of 165, but it's not stored or served at a safe temperature 135°. The food industry is also horrible.

There is a lot of mistreatment in this prison system. These aren't the people you want back into society. Most of us came to grips with what brought us here and wants to reform. There should be motivation to a person who wants this treatment, not rejection when a person comes for help.