



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY FY 2021 Budget Work Session Follow Up – Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office – June 11, 2020

### Question 1

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**Commissioners Jayapal (District 2) and Vega Pederson (District 3):** Please provide additional information about the current jail dorm capacity and usage. Specifically, please provide a chart showing the capacity of the dorms with COVID-related distancing in place and actual usage. How does this compare to pre-COVID capacity and usage?

#### Response:

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, MCSO jail system capacity at MCIJ had fluctuated between 90-95%. The Corrections Division worked closely with the Multnomah County Health Department to implement safe, effective measures to limit the potential for an outbreak of COVID-19 in our facilities. The congregate nature of any jail facility makes it particularly vulnerable to a viral outbreak. A collaboration between Corrections Health and MCSO has led to established, proven protocols that were immediately implemented as part of a COVID-19 response. Within the first few weeks of the pandemic, our MCIJ population declined to between 60-65% throughout the months of April and May.

As we learned more about the spread of COVID-19 and measures being taken to flatten the curve, we worked with our public health partners to implement plans to cohort healthy, long-stay adults in custody. In addition, we worked to reduce the overall number of adults in custody in each housing unit to allow additional space in open housing dorms. Two additional dorm units were opened to help facilitate this and these units have now closed, as our population has declined.

The Corrections Division continues to utilize several housing units at MCDC as part of our medical classification plan. The addition of these units allows adults in custody to remain in single cell housing units as the first stage of our Covid-19 evaluation period prior to moving to open dorm housing. After a seven-day period of observation at MCDC, MCIJ eligible adults in custody are moved to Dorm 14 or Dorm 15 at MCIJ. As one dorm approaches capacity, the population is frozen and held as a cohort for an additional 7-day period before becoming eligible for open dorm housing. During this period, the other single cell dorm is open for receiving adults in custody and the process is repeated as each dorm reaches capacity, moving back and forth between these modules. Populations in all these Classification units are assessed daily by Corrections Health for symptoms of COVID-19 to meet the recommended period of 14 days of observation.



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