

Potential Questions for the July 16th Public Safety and Justice Affairs Committee

General Questions

1. Obviously, we have had multiple issues that are in the public regarding the County Jail, from your perspective, what is the root of these problems?
2. There has been a significant number of suicides and suicide attempts in the Jail, what do you believe the County can do to address the problem?
3. Beyond those issues in the Corrections/Jail Division, are there any other concerns or issues that you have recognized that need to be addressed within the other divisions of the Sheriff's Office?

Jail Staffing

4. What direct control did you have over staffing, staffing decisions, requests for additional unbudgeted staffing at all levels of the Sheriff's Office since you became the Sheriff? Who has the final decision on hiring, firing, promoting etc. within the Sheriff's Office? Were any of your staffing decisions overridden, overturned, or denied by someone? If so who denied your staffing decisions and for what position?
5. Are current staffing decisions/policies different from when other Cuyahoga County Sheriffs were in charge?
6. What do you believe is the biggest factor into the County not being able to hire and retain additional correction officers? Are there any other important factors?
7. Beyond further increases in salary, how can we improve the County's ability to hire and retain additional correction officers?
8. Do you believe we would be better off in the County Jail if we had Deputies work the County Jail instead of Correction Officers?
9. Did you have any involvement in the decision to promote Ken Mills to the Jail Administrator position? At that time, did you raise any concerns about Mr. Mills being promoted to that position? If you had final say in HR matters, would you have hired Ken Mills for that position with his background/resume?
10. At any point since 2015 and prior to Ken Mills leaving the County, did you recommend that Ken Mills be removed as Jail Administrator? If so, who did you make those recommendations to? When did you make those recommendations? What was the response to those recommendations?
11. Did you ever get the sense when Ken Mills was the Jail Administrator that you reported to him or he had the ability to make final decisions over you? If so, where did this impression come from? What was the actual day to day reporting structure within the Sheriff's Office vs. what may have been on an organizational chart?
12. Are there any staffing changes, increases, decreases at any level within the Sheriffs office today that you would recommend? If so, what are they?
13. After Ken Mills left and George Taylor became the interim Jail Administrator, how did things change both in the jail and your daily interaction with the Jail Administrator? Why did things change?

14. There have been some horrific videos released of correction officers beating and pepper spraying inmates that are restrained. What can be done to eliminate this type of abuse from tax payer funded employees and what have you done personally to try and ensure this doesn't happen ever again?
15. Do you believe there is ever an appropriate time for a Jail Official or Law Enforcement Officer to shut off his or her body camera? If so, why? What is the process for complaints related to the types of behavior we've seen in these videos? Do you see any possibilities for failure of this process? If so, how could the complaint mechanism be changed to address those failure points?

Regional Jails

16. What was your specific involvement in the process to establish a regional jail system in Cuyahoga County?
17. Do you agree that the County needs the Euclid and Bedford Heights Jail? If so, why? If not, why?
18. If you remember, back in May 2018, the Administration had to rush on an emergency mission critical contract for temporary nurses for the Bedford Heights Jail because they opened the facility without any nurses. How did you allow a jail facility to open without proper staffing? What happened?
19. When the Euclid Jail contract was presented to Council, it was stated that it was rated for 80 beds. We just recently learned that it's only rated for 32 beds. Can you please tell us why you believe Council was told one capacity rating versus the accurate rating?
20. What was your involvement in the decision to take over housing the Cleveland Jail Inmates? Do you think we should continue the Cleveland Jail contract? If so, why? If not, why not?
21. With the recent news of the County withdrawing from the Euclid Jail lease, what would you recommend the County do to assist the City of Euclid during the transition?

Structure of the Sheriff's Office

22. Do you think the current organizational structure of the Jail is the most ideal? If not, what changes would you make to staffing to fix it? If you have changes, have you previously recommended them? If so, when? If you did recommend these changes, why weren't they implemented?
23. As you may know, there are currently two charter amendments in front of Council relating to the Office of the Sherriff. One is to put greater guidelines around the appointment of the Sheriff and the other is to create an elected sheriff position. Considering you have been the Sheriff since 2015, which charter amendment do you prefer and why?
24. Did you believe there was ever a time since you became Sherriff that if you spoke up or against Ken Mills or anyone in the administration, that you could have ended up being fired, or being forced to resign?

25. Was there ever a time that you were discouraged or believed that if you spoke out against a decision, be it HR, budgetary, or anything else, that there would be consequences from the Administration? If so, what were they?
26. Was there ever a time that you felt you couldn't come to a Council meeting because of consequences from the Administration?
27. Since you became the Sherriff, were you ever told not to inform Council about anything? If so what was it? If so, who told you that?
28. Since you became the Sherriff, was there ever a time when information you were going to share with Council was modified or edited by anyone else prior to being submitted to Council?

Overcrowding/Physical Structure of the Jail

29. What best practices would you like to see incorporated into rehabbing the existing jail or building a new one?
30. What is the status of completing the construction/rehab of the Cleveland Jail space? What is the status of completing the rehab of the old Jail Kitchen area?
31. In years past the County would send inmates to other jails throughout Northeast Ohio. We would pay them \$55 per inmate, per day. This helped with overcrowding issues tremendously, why did this practice stop? Do you think we should go back to this practice? Were you involved in this decision?
32. What happened to the central booking project from 2012/2013? Would reconstituting this project help solve some problems? Do you think we should do this?
33. A few years ago, the County expanded the use of the ankle bracelet program. The intention of this program was for pre-trial. How many spots do we have available for the ankle bracelet program? Out of those spots, how many are currently being utilized? Out of those being utilized, how many are for pre-trial and how many are for probationary services? Would you recommend increasing the number of bracelets?
34. How many inmates are in the County jail awaiting trial? Out of those number of inmates, what is their average number of days in the jail?
35. What do you think the County can do to help with the overcrowding issue?
36. Given that the County Jail has been consistently over capacity to varying levels for years, is there an inmate population level at which you would refuse to accept more prisoners?

Medical Care of Inmates

37. How do you believe the current transition to MetroHealth for complete medical care has gone so far?
38. Are there any structural/IT modifications that still remain to be completed by the County related to the Metro transition?
39. Are you aware of any requests for staffing increases/additional appropriations in the medical unit that were requested by the Sheriff's Office and not ultimately approved by the Administration since 2015?

40. How was your relationship with Gary Brack? Do you believe he should have been removed from the Jail? Were you ever asked by the County Executive or his designee for your opinion of removing Gary Brack from the Jail? Are you aware of anyone in the Sheriff's Office asking the Executive or his designee to have Gary Brack removed?
41. Back in 2017, as part of the 2018-2019 biennial budget process, the County Administration presented a budget reduction in the Sheriffs Office. The budget reduction would have privatized medical care for the jail inmates and given a no bid contract to Naphcare. As you know, Council rejected this budget reduction, which allowed us to continue our relationship with MetroHealth. Did you have any involvement in this recommendation to contract with Naphcare? If not, where did the concept of Naphcare come from? If not, how is it possible that the person in charge of the Jail, the County Sheriff, wasn't part of this decision?
42. Back in 2017, as part of the 2018-2019 biennial budget process, the County Administration presented a budget reduction in the Sheriff's Office. The budget reduction would have privatized food services in the Jail. At that point in time, it appeared that the concept wasn't well thought out. Did you have any involvement in this recommendation to privatize food services? If not, where did this concept come from? If not, how is it possible that the person in charge of the Jail, the County Sheriff, wasn't part of this decision?

U.S. Marshals Report/State of Ohio's Inspections

43. Do you track the jails use of red zoning? If so, when did you start tracking this data?
44. Since 2015, have you noticed an increase, decrease, or the same amount of red zoning? If it is different today than when you first took over as Sherriff, what caused the difference?
45. Since the U.S. Marshals Report was released, has the County realized an increase, decrease, or the same amount of red zoning? If its been decreased, how were we able to decrease the use of red zoning and why wasn't this done prior to the U.S. Marshals Report being released?
46. Between the U.S. Marshals Report and the recent State of Ohio Inspection reports, what do you believe are the three biggest issues/concerns and have those been addressed?
47. In the US Marshals report, it states that pregnant women are sleeping on the floor. Was this accurate? If it is, how did we let this happen?
48. In the US Marshals report, there was discussion of doors that don't lock. Was this accurate? If it is, how did we let this happen?
49. In the US Marshals report, there was discussion of access to food being used as a punitive measure. Was this accurate? If it is, how did we let this happen?
50. In the US Marshals report, there was discussion about inmates being denied access to showers, proper hygiene products, etc. due to red zoning. Was this accurate? If it is, how did we let this happen?
51. In the US Marshals report, it states that juveniles are being co-located with adult inmates. Was this accurate? If it is, how did we let this happen?

52. What are your thoughts on the State of Ohio coming in every 30 days to inspect the Jail?
53. What are your thoughts on why the U.S. Marshals Report was so dramatically different from the preceding State of Ohio Inspection Reports? How could those inspections have missed what the Marshals found?