



MONTANA TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Ravalli County

JENNIFER B. LINT
District Court Judge
Department #2, Courtroom #2

Ravalli County Courthouse
205 Bedford Street, Suite B
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: (406) 802-7192

August 9, 2024

Dear Commissioners and Legislators:

I am writing to inform you of the current jail population in Ravalli County and how lack of funding at the State level is impacting the safety of our community.

We are averaging 30% of our population that should be elsewhere – either Montana State Prison, a Department of Corrections placement or the Montana State Hospital. There is always a waiting period between sentencing and placement with either the Prison or a Department of Corrections program, and some wait for individuals who are committed to the Montana State Hospital, however, the wait times now have become a burden on our detention center.

As of Monday, August 5, 2024, individuals with pending felony charges and awaiting placement at the Montana State Hospital for a restoration of fitness commitment are as follows:

Inmate 1

Commitment Order 3/7/24 (**5 months**)
#6 on the waiting list at Montana State Hospital

Inmate 2

Commitment Order 6/17/24 (**50 days**)
#25 on the waiting list at Montana State Hospital

Inmate 3

Commitment Order 4/12/24 (**4 months**)
#39 on the waiting list at Montana State Hospital

August 9, 2024

Page 2

Inmate 4

Commitment Order 4/23/24 (**3 ½ months**)

#46 on the waiting list at Montana State Hospital

Inmate 5

Commitment Order 3/7/24 (**5 months**)

#68 on the waiting list at Montana State Hospital

As of Monday, August 5, 2024, individuals awaiting placement at the Montana State Prison or a Department of Corrections Program are as follows:

Skyler Risher (DC 22-172)

Sentenced 5/2/24

95 days

Jimmy Hammond (DC 23-236)

Sentenced 5/30/24

67 days

Shon Lampley (DC 20-126)

Sentenced 6/5/24

61 days

John Archambault (DC 15-4)

Sentenced 6/5/24

61 days

Simeon Lippert (DC 08-36)

Sentenced 6/6/24

60 days

Joshua Kammerer (DC 21-227)

DOC since 8/26/22

Sentenced on Misdemeanors 6/27/24

39 days

Marvon Sandvig (DC 24-103)

Sentenced 7/3/24

33 days

Donald Rogers (DC 23-188)

Sentenced 7/3/24

33 days

August 9, 2024
Page 3

Arlene Wilson (DC 24-20)
Sentenced 7/11/24
25 days

Angela Amos (DC 19-166)
Sentenced 7/16/24
20 days

Elizabeth Taylor (DC 23-28 & DC 24-55)
Sentenced 7/18/24
18 days

Sandra Martin (DC 24-24)
Sentenced 7/24/24
12 days

Jan Rauenhorst (DC 23-150 & DC 24-33)
Sentenced 7/31/24
5 days

Brian Campell (DC 23-232)
Sentenced 8/1/24
4 days

Because of the number of inmates waiting State placement, and our inability locally to do anything other than house them until the State has a place for them, the detention center is now forced to take steps to reduce inmate acceptances – at present, no non-violent misdemeanor arrests will be taken into custody, no DUI 1's unless they cannot be safely released, no probation/parole violators unless they have committed a new felony. The result is obvious: crime committing individuals who otherwise would be held until they can see a judge and have conditions of release and bond set, are instead being returned to the community immediately, without any of those safeguards in place.

Our detention center and its well-trained staff is absolutely capable of managing the necessary inmate population for our county; it cannot, however, routinely have 30% of its capacity consumed by inmates who should be in State facilities.

As our elected officials, I ask that you immediately bring pressure to bear upon the agencies responsible for housing and treating these individuals. The current status is unmanageable and damaging to our community. We cannot have the situation where criminals are cited and turned back on the streets without bond and conditions of release. We are not Portland.

Upcoming, I ask that for the 2025 Session priority is given to funding increases for Department of Corrections facilities and staff to house the inmates that are sentenced, and the funds appropriated to address the crisis at the Montana State Hospital be employed on actual

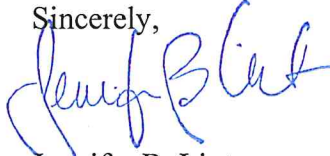
August 9, 2024

Page 4

solutions – more beds, more staff. The same applies to Department of Corrections: more actual tangible solutions, not people talking about what needs to happen. Laws are passed which appropriately require sentences for incarceration or commitment, it cannot stand that then there is no place to house those individuals, leaving the burden on local detention facilities.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jennifer B. Lint

District Judge, Dept. No. 2