October 2023 Jail Board Public Comments



Comment: Hello, Thanks to all the jail staff as well as the Jail Oversight Board for all the hard work you do for our community. With Dr Ashley Brinkman announcing her leave from her position at ACJ to move into an RV with her family to travel the country, who will be replacing her as Health Services Administrator since the medical department is already short staffed? Thank you

Name: Savanna Green

Comment: Does the board have info on how the next warden will be chosen? Who will be involved in the candidate search? Will the public have the opportunity for input?

Name: Malcolm Durridge

Comment: I'm very appreciative of the work the Controller's Office has done on the status of the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund and jail staffing issues, but I haven't seen public comments posted on the Controller's website lately. Ideally the Board would actually discuss these comments at the meetings, but if they choose not to do that then I would ask that they please make them part of meeting minutes as promised. Some of us just can't make it to a meeting in downtown Pittsburgh at 4pm on a weekday due to work, family, or transportation issues, and I don't see why our voices should be excluded for those logistical reasons.

Name: Brett Campbell

Comment: Hello Board, I am following up on the use of firearms and flash grenades in the jail. It has been 2 years since the Board decided that such weapons should not be carried or deployed in the ACJ, and yet their use continues. I don't understand why the Board members who took part in that vote don't seem to care that the jail administration has totally disregarded them? Can we please, please address this problem before someone gets seriously injured or killed? As I've stated previously, this isn't just about prisoner safety-- it is a huge potential liability for the county.

Name: Ruth V Romano-Keppler

Comment: How will the next warden be selected? What's the timeline for choosing a candidate?

Name: Ashley Moreau

Comment: The board really needs to talk about the rapidly depleting Incarcerated Individuals Welfare Fund. As the Controller's Office has pointed out, it's really not sustainable to keep putting \$100/month on the books for each incarcerated person and to pay the Liaison out of the fund. It also doesn't make ANY sense. The county is responsible for maintaining a basic standard of living for the people in its custody, so the county budget should be providing enough food and basic hygiene items that individuals do not NEED to purchase additional items just to get by. Has the IIWF Subcommittee met to discuss this?