

Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board

Unannounced Inspection Report

Conducted by: Councilmember Bethany Hallam and Muhammad Ali Nasir (MAN-E)

Date of Inspection: January 3, 2026

Time: Approximately 12:38 PM – 3:30 PM

Escort: Sergeant Barker

Areas Visited

- 3C
 - 1C (Women's Housing Unit)
 - 8E (Administrative / Segregated Housing)
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3C

Incarcerated individuals housed on 3C raised extensive concerns regarding staff conduct, sanitation, medication practices, due process, and retaliation. Numerous individuals reported serious and repeated misconduct by [REDACTED]. Individuals described being targeted, harassed, and retaliated against, including being locked in without formal write-ups and subjected to vindictive and oppressive behavior. Multiple individuals reported that [REDACTED] publicly announced people's criminal charges to the entire pod, including making personal attacks related to individuals' families and cases, in violation of jail policy and basic privacy protections. Several individuals stated that they were locked in for extended periods and later issued retroactive write-ups only after grievances were filed.

Individuals also reported that [REDACTED] intentionally "burns" recreation time by structuring the evening in a way that effectively eliminates rec. Count reportedly occurs around 3:00 PM, followed by razor distribution, dinner trays, and the administration of nighttime medications beginning at approximately 4:00 or 5:00 PM. Individuals stated that by the time these processes are completed, they may have as little as one hour of movement time before lock-in at approximately 7:45 PM. Individuals reported that medications intended to be taken immediately before bedtime, including sleep medications, are administered at dinnertime, forcing individuals to choose between going to sleep early or staying awake and experiencing the medication wearing off before bedtime. This issue was described as longstanding and unresolved despite repeated complaints over several years.

Sanitation conditions on 3C were visibly poor. We personally observed mildew in the showers, broken showers and toilets, dust and dirt throughout the pod, and cells shut down due to plumbing issues. Individuals also raised concerns about the air filtration system. Several individuals reported that they had worn the same green uniforms for extended periods, up to nine days, because laundry was not returned or clothing was stolen. Two individuals stated that they sent their uniforms to the laundry four days earlier and had not received them back, leaving them with only one set of clothing.

Additional concerns included delayed or unanswered grievances, allergic reactions caused by being served food that individuals were not supposed to receive, and complaints that commissary was confiscated, misplaced, or intentionally placed in other cells. One individual reported having a visible abscess on their neck that medical staff allegedly refused to drain. Several individuals suggested that pod officers should be prevented from viewing individuals' charges to prevent misuse of that information for harassment.

Multiple incarcerated individuals asked to be named in this report as openly speaking out about conditions on 3C, including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom assisted us by identifying issues throughout the pod. Individuals expressed concern that the pressure and treatment by [REDACTED] was increasing tension among incarcerated people and causing harm to overall safety and well-being.

1C - Women's Housing Unit

Women housed on 1C reported serious concerns related to medication access, medical care, intake treatment, and access to the courts. One individual reported that she had been incarcerated for five days and had not received any of her prescribed mental health medications, despite having been on those medications for many years prior to incarceration. She also reported requesting an X-ray for an injury sustained during an altercation prior to incarceration, but that staff refused to order one for her.

Inspectors also spoke with a woman who had open wounds related to xylazine use. The wounds were not covered, and her cellmate expressed concern about the risk of infection. An individual also raised concern about an upcoming eviction hearing and feared that she would be prevented from attending if she remained incarcerated, highlighting a broader and recurring issue of individuals missing non-criminal court hearings while in custody.

Another individual on this pod, [REDACTED] requested to be named in this report. She reported concerns regarding her arrest and intake process, stating that she was targeted and harassed by [REDACTED] during intake. She alleged that [REDACTED] made racist remarks referencing a noose and told her, "it's my word against yours," when she contested his behavior. She further stated that she believes [REDACTED] influenced her placement on a behavioral health hold, telling her that he would "make sure she stays" in jail. Ms. Collins reported that she was seen by medical staff for injuries sustained during her arrest and was

provided a sling and over-the-counter pain medication, which she felt was inadequate but acknowledged that medical staff did not completely ignore her concerns.

8E – Administrative / Segregated Housing

We visited 8E to follow up on concerns raised by family members regarding an incarcerated individual who had recently been involved in a use-of-force incident. He provided details of the incident, which contradicted the official narrative from the jail. He further reported that he submitted two liaison forms and filed two formal grievances at the end of December, none of which had received a response as of January 3, 2026.

Individuals housed on 8E reported ongoing issues related to visitation and commissary. Several individuals stated that visits with loved ones were suspended due to misconduct even after the disciplinary sanction period had ended. One individual reported that their commissary was not returned following a prior placement in segregation and further stated that their commissary was stolen when a correctional officer packed belongings during a transfer to the hole.

Summary of Concerns

Across housing units, we observed recurring and unresolved issues including staff retaliation, denial of due process, unsafe and inappropriate medication administration practices, unsanitary living conditions, delays in medical and mental health care, interference with mail and commissary, barriers to attending court hearings, and failures in the grievance response system. The repeated nature of these complaints, particularly regarding staff conduct and medication timing, suggests systemic failures rather than isolated incidents.

Report Submitted By:

Councilmember Bethany Hallam
Muhammad Ali Nasir (MAN-E)

Date: January 14, 2026