

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Professor Armstrong  
**FROM:** Emma Evans  
**DATE:** November 10, 2023  
**RE:** B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center

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**B.B. RAYBURN CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

**INTRODUCTION**

The B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center is a state prison housing adult male felons, located in the city of Angie, LA.<sup>1</sup> It is the prison for Washington Parish County and the Louisiana Department of Corrections.<sup>2</sup> The facility is currently under the direction of Warden Travis Day.<sup>3</sup>

**JAIL CHARACTERISTICS**

The B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center is a closed-custody state facility.<sup>4</sup> It officially opened its doors in 1982.<sup>5</sup> The prison was designed to house up to 1,376 adult male inmates and has a staff of 371 people (employees and volunteers) who are authorized to enter the facility.<sup>6</sup> B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center is located at 27268 Highway 21 North, Angie, LA 70426.<sup>7</sup> Angie is a small Louisiana village with a population of 349 people (as of 2021).<sup>8</sup>

The facility's website is <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>. The website contains all of the updated contact information for the prison, as well as the current warden's name. Additionally it provides directions to the facility, visitation information, and information on the types of programs available to the inmates.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nodeathpenalty.org/louisiana/state/b-b-sixty-rayburn-correctional-center/>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nodeathpenalty.org/louisiana/state/b-b-sixty-rayburn-correctional-center/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://lclelsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-SSLCFPR-Report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/angie-la>

The B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center houses male inmates ages 19-78.<sup>9</sup> The racial makeup of Washington Parish in the 2000 census was 67.42% White and 31.53% Black or African American.<sup>10</sup> Based on the deaths reported from 2014-today, this is reflected in the population of B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the deaths that have been reported demonstrate that the prison population consists largely of people ages 40 and above.<sup>12</sup> Most of the crimes that the inmates have been brought in on consist of varying degrees of theft, drug possession, and occasional cases of rape or other forms of violence.<sup>13</sup>

According to a Final Audit Report dated January 19, 2022, by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the prison currently has 1,188 inmates.<sup>14</sup> In 2020, Washington Parish had 201 inmates admitted and 244 inmates released.<sup>15</sup> According to the 2022 audit, B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center had 316 inmates admitted in the 12 months prior to January 19, 2022.<sup>16</sup> The facility as a whole has 23 buildings.<sup>17</sup> There are 5 inmate housing units, 4 of those units are open bay/dorm housing units and 1 is a single cell housing unit.<sup>18</sup> In that 1 single cell housing unit there are 54 segregation cells.<sup>19</sup>



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<sup>9</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.wpsolouisiana.gov/parish-stats>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/la-prison-deaths/washington/>

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://lclelsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-SSLCFPR-Report.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

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The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections completes the review of the annual budget for B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center.<sup>21</sup> According to their report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the existing budget for the facility, as of 12/01/2020, is \$28,039,802.<sup>22</sup> The total of their actual costs, as seen in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, was \$28,289,434.<sup>23</sup> Based on this, their recommended budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year was \$30,193,586.<sup>24</sup>

### NUMBER OF DEATH SINCE 2014 AND TRENDS

Since 2014, there have been 22 reported deaths at B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center.<sup>25</sup> According to the Incarceration Transparency website, all but 2 of those deaths were due to some sort of illness or medical issue.<sup>26</sup> All of the deaths reported were of men ages 42-81.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, the majority of the medical deaths that occurred were reportedly caused by underlying conditions.<sup>28</sup> The prison was aware of most of these underlying conditions, as indicated in the 2021 Status Report done by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.<sup>29</sup> In 2021, the percentage of the population on medication at B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center was 70% in Q1, 72% in Q2, 69% in Q3, and 70% in Q4.<sup>30</sup> Most of the deaths reported also occurred years, sometimes tens of years, into the inmate's sentence.<sup>31</sup>

### EVIDENCE OF OVERSIGHT

Within the past 3 years, B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center has been accredited by the ACA.<sup>32</sup> This was noted in the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report, which was completed by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections on January 19, 2022.<sup>33</sup> The summary of findings from this audit demonstrates that 45 of the standards were met and 0 standards were unmet or exceeded.<sup>34</sup> There have been no hearings done on the operations of the facility, specifically by the Parish or City Council. Additionally there have been no Judicial orders or consent decrees put into effect against B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center within the last 5 years.

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.doa.la.gov/media/u4zpqe0g/08a\\_corrections\\_services.pdf](https://www.doa.la.gov/media/u4zpqe0g/08a_corrections_services.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/la-prison-deaths/washington/>

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> <https://lclelsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-SSLCFPR-Report.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/la-prison-deaths/washington/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

## EVIDENCE OF TRANSPARENCY

There have been no public briefings done on B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center **by jail or city officials**. The official website for the B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center does not contain its own inmate locator.<sup>35</sup> However, the website for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections contains a section for locating a person in prison.<sup>36</sup> The link brings you to a separate site and, rather than allowing you to search by facility, you are able to search by state.<sup>37</sup> You can search for an inmate by name, ID number, or case number.<sup>38</sup> There is also an option to search for a partial name and, although you don't need a first name for this option, they do require the first 2 letters of the last name.<sup>39</sup> The results will show inmates from every facility in Louisiana with the same name, or a similar one.<sup>40</sup>

There has been research done on the conditions of the facility within the past 5 years by groups such as VOTE. During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, advocates from VOTE delivered masks to the state prison system, as inmates were still struggling to get them.<sup>41</sup> The facility was not enforcing social distancing, had limited cleaning supplies, and simply was not meeting the medical needs of people with preexisting conditions.<sup>42</sup>

Additionally, an advocacy group called "Michael Young Prison Solidarity" was formed in support of an inmate named Michael Young.<sup>43</sup> Mr. Young has experienced a myriad of unconstitutional and cruel treatment since his incarceration began in 2014.<sup>44</sup> The cases of mistreatment began in 2015, and since then, "Mr. Young has endured sexual assault, inadequate mental health care, and denial of access to books and legal resources."<sup>45</sup> He filed a grievance under the PREA in 2015 and alleges that he has been punished by guards since then, in retaliation for that complaint.<sup>46</sup> The court dismissed his case as moot on May 24, 2019 and that decision was affirmed on appeal on June 9, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/imprisoned-person-programs-resources/offender-information/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://vinelink.vineapps.com/search/LA/Person>

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

<sup>40</sup> *Id.*

<sup>41</sup>

[https://www.nola.com/news/coronavirus/as-death-count-grows-louisiana-prisons-and-jails-grapple-with-coronavirus-spread/article\\_a261bbb8-8728-11ea-9a1f-6bc823fbc5db.html](https://www.nola.com/news/coronavirus/as-death-count-grows-louisiana-prisons-and-jails-grapple-with-coronavirus-spread/article_a261bbb8-8728-11ea-9a1f-6bc823fbc5db.html)

<sup>42</sup> *Id.*

<sup>43</sup> <https://supportmikeyoung.wordpress.com/letter-to-warden-tanner/>

<sup>44</sup> *Id.*

<sup>45</sup> *Id.*

<sup>46</sup> *Id.*

<sup>47</sup> *Young v. LeBlanc*, 2022 WL 2072861 (5th.Cir.2022).

The most notable case to come out of B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center in the past 5 years is *Marlowe v. LeBlanc*.<sup>48</sup> Mr. Marlowe alleges that the prison workers “exhibited deliberate indifference toward his medical needs by providing a constitutionally deficient meal service that resulted in his developing diabetes and then failing to adequately treat his illness.”<sup>49</sup> He also requested a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) during COVID-19, requiring the prison to implement social distancing measures to protect him.<sup>50</sup> The court granted his motion for a TRO, and that decision was affirmed when prison officials appealed.<sup>51</sup> The case has since been submitted to the Supreme Court for further review.<sup>52</sup>

### CONCLUSION

B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center has received numerous complaints over the years, demanding change to their facility. As the majority of the inmates are older, most of the complaints extend from a lack of sufficient medical care. Warden Travis Day was only recently put into his position so perhaps he will be able to bring about a positive change for the facility. The inmates have a right to proper medical care and, as the majority of the deaths reported have been medical, it is evident they are not getting that.

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<sup>48</sup> *Marlowe v. LeBlanc*, 810 Fed.Appx. 302 (5th.Cir.2020).

<sup>49</sup> *Id.*

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> *Id.*

<sup>52</sup>