

Memorandum

To: Professor Armstrong

From: Kayli Martin

Re: Jefferson Davis Parish Jail

I. Number of Deaths and Trends

There has only been one death at Jefferson Davis Parish Jail between 2014 to 2021.¹ The death happened in 2016 and the inmate was a 24-year-old white male that completed suicide by hanging.² He was admitted to the facility only three days before his death on a first-degree murder charge.³ He had not yet been convicted and was being held in a segregation unit.⁴ He died during the evening between 6 pm and midnight.⁵ The jail's warden at the time was Dustin Locke, who is still the warden today.⁶

II. Jail Characteristics

The Jefferson Davis Parish Jail now has 200 beds available.⁷ The current jail was completed in 2019 to replace the former jail built in 1964 that held 62 inmates.⁸ The current jail is located at 1704 Hwy. 90 West (Shankland Ave.), Jennings, LA 70546.⁹ Jefferson Davis Parish in Southwest Louisiana.¹⁰ The parish population is about 32,000 residents, comprised mostly of rural agricultural areas.¹¹ The area's economy mostly consists of rice, sugarcane, and soybean farming, coupled with cattle and crawfish production.¹² The parish is comprised of the incorporated cities and towns of Elton, Fenton, Jennings, Lake Arthur, and Welsh.¹³ More information about Jefferson Davis Parish, its Sheriff's office, and the jail can be found at jdpso.org.¹⁴

A. Current Leadership

¹ Form CJ-9, Deaths in Custody- 2016 Death Report on Inmates Under Jail Jurisdiction, Jefferson Davis Parish Jail, Richard V. Craig.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Corrections*, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (Dec. 07, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://www.jdpso.org/corrections>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Protect and Serve*, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (Dec. 07, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://www.jdpso.org/>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

The current Sheriff of Jefferson Davis Parish is Ivy J. Woods, and he has been the Sheriff since 2012.¹⁵ Sheriff Woods was born and raised in Jefferson Davis Parish.¹⁶ He began his career as a Louisiana State Trooper over two decades ago.¹⁷ After college he began his career with the Louisiana State Police. He was awarded “Senior Trooper of the Year” for Region II in 2004.¹⁸ In 2006, he received the “Trooper of the Year” award.¹⁹ He received this award in recognition of his participation in the “largest illegal drug currency seizure in the history of Louisiana.”²⁰

The current Warden at Jefferson Davis Parish Jail is Corrections Commander Dustin Locke.²¹ Commander Locke has 16 years of corrections experience.²² He began his career in 2004 as a corrections officer for the North Carolina Department of Corrections till 2007.²³ In 2010, he moved to the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville, Tennessee.²⁴ He joined the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff’s Office in 2010 as a corrections officer.²⁵ He was promoted to Warden of the Parish Jail in 2012.²⁶ Then he was entitled as Commander of Corrections.²⁷ This title means he is also responsible for transportation, courthouse and courtroom security, and oversees up to 26 full and part-time employees.²⁸

In addition to the Warden, there are 31 deputies serving as jailers.²⁹ Jailers are responsible for booking inmates in and out that have been arrested and escorted to the jail.³⁰ This includes fingerprinting, taking booking photos, completing and filing paperwork, and placing the inmate in population.³¹ It is also the Jailers’ responsibility to make sure inmates are able to see the Judge within 72-hours of being arrested.³² Jailers also work with the inmates to contact bondsmen if bond is given.³³ These jailers work 12-hour shifts where they make rounds, serve meals to inmates, and dispense medication to inmates.³⁴ Jailers are also responsible for bringing inmates to and from court.³⁵

B. Annual Budget and Financing

¹⁵ *Administration*, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF’S OFFICE (Dec. 07, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://www.jdpsso.org/administration>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Supra* note 6.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.*

The Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office has a Basic Financial Statement from 2020 that accounts for the expenses and revenue brought in by the Parish Jail as well.³⁶ From the Basic Financial Statement, it looks like the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office has about a \$7.5 million budget.³⁷ This budget includes taxes, intergovernmental revenues like federal and state grants, fees and charges for services, fines and forfeiture, retirement funds, payroll, etc.³⁸ The Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury created a more detailed budget report in relation to the Parish Jail in 2019.³⁹ There was \$500,000 budgeted to feed prisoners and \$479,728.44 was used.⁴⁰ This was the largest portion of the budget.⁴¹ \$60,000 was budgeted for prison medical services and only \$52,773.66 was used.⁴² Other large portions of the budget included transportation of prisoners, \$11,338.59 budgeted and \$13,195.91 was used, and juvenile detention fees, \$15,000 budgeted and \$4,750 used.⁴³

III. Evidence of Oversight

The Parish Jail does not have any accreditations by any national associations. There also are not any judicial orders (injunctive) or consent decrees in effect currently or previously within last five years. The Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office and Parish Jail have a yearly audit done by LA-DOC by independent auditor, which contains the majority of their budget information.⁴⁴ This includes what each type of fund is designated for, revenue, expenses, liabilities, and other financial statements.⁴⁵ The US-DOJ did an audit report on Oversight of Department of Justice Expenditures Related to Hurricane Katrina in 2006.⁴⁶ The audit was done because there was a hold on the JAG relief to the Parish Jail, but there was not a hold on the supplemental disaster relief grant.⁴⁷ The BJA determined that the hold was because Jefferson Davis Parish Jail failed to submit the required Financial Status Reports (FSRs).⁴⁸

IV. Evidence of Transparency

A. Accessible to the Public

The Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Department puts out press releases on all arrest they make, and the releases can be found on their website.⁴⁹ There are also press releases put out

³⁶ Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff Basic Financial Statements, As of and the Year Ended June 30, 2020 at pg. 7, [https://app.lla.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/67052566F4EEDAA5862586A10062CB06/\\$FILE/000230BA.pdf](https://app.lla.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/67052566F4EEDAA5862586A10062CB06/$FILE/000230BA.pdf).

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.* at 7,9.

³⁹ *Jefferson Davis Budget 2019*, INCARCERATION TRANSPARENCY (Dec. 07, 2021, 11:00 am), <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Jefferson-Davis-Budget-2019.pdf>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Supra* note 36.

⁴⁶ *Oversight Of Department Of Justice Expenditures Related To Hurricane Katrina*, U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General Audit Division, Audit Report 06-11, February 2006, <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/OJP/a0611/final.pdf>.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ Press Releases, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (Dec. 07, 2021, 11:15 AM) <https://www.jdpsos.org/press-releases>.

about serious misconduct and events that happen within the Parish Jail, although they are harder to find on the website.⁵⁰ The Sheriff's Office also does hold public meetings and hearings on certain matters, like the budget.⁵¹

B. Availability of Data on People Inside

The Parish Jail has an inmate roster located on their website.⁵² The roster states each person's name, their booking number, booking date, age, gender, race, address (city, state), arresting agency, charges, and bond amount.⁵³ At the top of the page, it tells you how many people are currently being held there. There is current 94 inmates in the 200 bed Parish Jail.⁵⁴ All publicly available population statistics are based on the jails former 62 inmate capacity. Based on the 62-inmate capacity of the former jail; 93.5% of the inmates were men and 6.5% of the inmates were women.⁵⁵ The racial breakdown of the Parish Jail was 61.3% Black, 30.6% White, 4.8% Latino, 3.2% Native, and less than 0.1% Asian.⁵⁶

C. Investigations and Advocacy Groups' Work

Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office and the Parish Jail are no stranger to controversy. The 2016 New York Times Best Seller and 2019 documentary series of the same name, *Murder in the Bayou*, brought attention back to Jefferson Davis Parish.⁵⁷ The book and show focus on an unsolved case of eight possibly related killings known as the Jeff Davis 8.⁵⁸ One of the victims was a witness in the 2002 corruption case brought against the Jefferson Davis Parish Jail.⁵⁹ The case was about Deputies trafficking female inmates within the Parish Jail to the male inmates.⁶⁰ The research team for the show also told The AP that they found a pattern of sexual assaults by guards spanning about two decades.⁶¹ More recently, there were two guards that were involved in a beating that left one inmate with a black eye and second-degree burns in 2019.⁶² When the AP reached out to Chief Deputy Ivey, he said that the old jail was poorly lit with spotty surveillance and that "none of the deputies accused of misconduct would be given badges by the current administration."⁶³

The Promise of Justice Initiative (PJI) also began looking into the Jefferson Davis Parish Jail in 2020, after the book and movie again brought the Jeff Davis 8 and the misconduct committed

⁵⁰ *Inmates and Jailers charged in Beating*, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (Dec. 07, 2021, 11:15 AM), https://www.jdpso.org/press_view.php?id=412.

⁵¹ Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff, Public Hearing/Meeting, https://www.jdpso.org/plugins/show_image.php?id=2068.

⁵² *Inmate Roster*, JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (Dec. 06, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://www.jdpso.org/roster.php>.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ Jefferson Davis Parish Inmate & Jail Records (Louisiana), PUBLICRECORD.ORG (Dec. 07, 2021, 11:20 AM), <https://www.pubrecord.org/jefferson-davis-parish-inmate-jail-records-louisiana/>.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ Jim Mustian, *Documentary Highlights Rape Allegations at Louisiana Jail*, AP NEWS (Oct. 11, 2019), <https://apnews.com/article/3098d859dc9a4d0a812bed02e0ca30e8>.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² *Id.*; *Supra* note 52.

⁶³ *Supra* note 60.

by Jefferson Davis law enforcement to light.⁶⁴ PJI asked the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately launch a Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act investigation in 2020.⁶⁵ The investigation would cover the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office, the Jennings Police Department, and other local law enforcement agencies.⁶⁶ PJI is concerned that law enforcement being involved in the drug trade, sex trafficking in the Parish Jail, fatal shootings of civilians, and the unsolved homicide of the eight Jefferson Davis Parish women are not being addressed on a state or local level.⁶⁷ They also expressed concerns that those directly involved with these activities have continued to find employment with nearby law enforcement agencies and the unique danger this behavior presents to women in these communities.⁶⁸

D. Filing and Receiving PRAs

This facility was the one I had the easiest time filing my PRA with. I just had to call the Sheriff's Office and they gave me Chief Deputy Ivey's email to send my request to. He responded to the request the same day. They were very responsive and efficient with processing the request.

V. Cases or Complaints on Prison/Jail Conditions

The main case I found related to conditions was *Moseley v. Parish*.⁶⁹ In the complaint Moseley said he had a prior conflict with another inmate, and he asked the Warden to keep them separated and the Warden did not do so.⁷⁰ He never heard back from the Warden on his request and believed that the request was erased.⁷¹ Moseley claimed that the other inmate started a fight with him where he received cuts, bruises, and a fractured rib.⁷² Moseley was removed from the dorm, placed in a holding cell for ten days, written up for fighting, sentenced to 14 days segregation and 28 days with no phone, commissary, or visitation.⁷³ The Magistrate Judge recommended that all claims against the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office and the Jefferson Davis Parish Policy Jury be denied and dismissed with prejudice.⁷⁴

Lastly, although it is not a complaint, there was an incident where two guards were implicated in beating an inmate with other inmates that resulted in bruising and second degree burns from hot water poured on the inmate.⁷⁵ The two Deputies involved were booked and charged with Malfeasance in office and 2nd Degree Battery.⁷⁶

⁶⁴ *The Promise of Justice Initiative Demands Launch of Federal Investigation into Violent, Corrupt Jefferson Davis Parish Law Enforcement*, THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE INITIATIVE (July 8, 2020), <https://promiseofjustice.org/news/2020/07/08/the-promise-of-justice-initiative-demands-launch-of-federal-investigation-into-violent-corrupt-jefferson-davis-parish-law-enforcement>.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Moseley v. Parish*, DOCKET NO. 20-cv-643 SECTION P (W.D. La. Jul. 6, 2020).

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² *Id.*

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ *Supra* note 50, 58.

⁷⁶ *Id.*