

MEMORANDUM

Better Know a Jail

Juvenile Justice Intervention Center

Jail Characteristics

The Juvenile Justice Intervention Center is located at 1100-A Milton Street New Orleans, LA 70122. The Justice Juvenile Intervention Center is used for pretrial detention for juvenile offenders. In other words, minors who are awaiting their day in court. It is located in Orleans Parish, a completely urban parish comprising the city of New Orleans. According to the city of New Orleans, the adopted annual budget from 2021-2023 was \$22, 610, 183. The capacity based on beds available is 76.

Recent Controversies

In 2019, the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center had an uprising in which detainees barricaded themselves inside as the NOPD Special Operations Division came in to quell the disturbance.

During Hurricane Ida, detainees were evacuated from the facility into an adult facility in St. Gabriel, Louisiana. The action was made in violation of both federal and state laws that prohibit juveniles who have not been convicted of a crime to be housed with convicted adults.

On January 12, 2022, four detainees escaped the facility after stealing an access card and fighting a guard. Several employees chased the detainees as they split up and outran them. Soon after, the youths carjacked a woman less than a mile away from the facility. Around that same time, Dr. Webster reported that only 47 employees were staffed, which was half of what the facility budgeted for.

On October 31, 2022, a report into the alleged abuse of office by the former Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center, Dr. Kyshun Webster, was published. In the report published by the office of the Inspector General, there were numerous claims about how Dr. Webster abused his position of authority, misused city property, and neglected duty all during November 2020 through March 2022. While the report focused on that specific span of time, Webster's absenteeism began sometime after the city of New Orleans experienced a cyberattack on December 13, 2019 and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He regularly avoided using his own access card to get inside the facility and failed to sign the daily sign-in sheet used by all employees and non-employees of the facility. When Dr. Webster was present, he did not always stay for the work day. He was alleged to mistreat employees, with many calling him arrogant with a "huge ego." Specifically, the report detailed a charge of \$11, 307 to soundproof his office. Employees thought the soundproofing was done to cover up his verbal abuse of other employees. He compelled JJIC employees to care for his dog, while on duty. His dog, Lacy, was left in a classroom in an old school building and her condition worsened to a point that she was eventually euthanized.

On September 28, 2023, the Justice Juvenile Intervention Center reached that capacity because of lags in transfers or releases of juvenile detainees. The detainees are all juveniles that are either aged 18 or younger.

Leadership

Sheriff Susan Hutson leads the Justice Juvenile Intervention Center. In 2010, Hutson became the city of New Orleans' independent police monitor. In 2016, she became president of the International Law Enforcement Auditors Association. In 2019, she was invited to lead the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, an organization created to promote police oversight. In 2021, she was elected as Orleans Parish Sheriff to a five year term that expires in 2026.

Sources

Dixon, "*Gone more than you saw him.*" *Former NOLA Juvenile Justice executive accused of funding misuse, neglect of duty*, WGNO, (Nov. 1, 2022, 7:29 PM), <https://wgno.com/news/local/gone-more-than-you-saw-him-former-nola-juvenile-justice-executive-accused-of-funding-misuse-neglect-of-duty/>.

Fuentes, *Former executive director of New Orleans juvenile jail accused of misspending in audit*, WVUE FOX 8 New Orleans, (Nov. 1, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kHT6d7iLoc>.

Meet Susan Hutson-Committee to Elect Susan Hutson, <https://www.susanforsheriff.com/meet>.

Mipro and O'Donoghue, *New Orleans teens in detention center were evacuated to adult prison for Hurricane Ida*, LOUISIANA ILLUMINATOR, (Sept. 15, 2021, 11:06 AM), <https://lailuminator.com/2021/09/15/new-orleans-teens-in-detention-center-were-evacuated-to-adult-prison-before-hurricane-ida/>.

Montaño, *2023 Annual Operating Budget City of New Orleans*, NOLA.GOV, (2023), <https://nola.gov/nola/media/Mayor-s-Office/Budget/2023/2023-Budget-Book-City-of-New-Orleans-Compiled-Budget-Book.pdf>.

Orleans Parish | City of New Orleans Open Data Portal, (Jan. 13, 2021), <https://portal-nolagis.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/3635dfa52dbd46068aa6f966d281ee82/explore>.

Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, <https://www.opso.us/>.

Sledge, *2 of 4 youth escapees from New Orleans juvenile jail have been caught, authorities say*, NOLA.COM, (Jan. 13, 2022), https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/article_df5e95ec-74a5-11ec-a9d8-eb64bc1cc00e.html.

Killett, *Juvenile jail has hit capacity, using cots to accommodate new arrivals*, NOLA.COM, (Sept. 28, 2023), https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/juvenile-jail-has-hit-capacity-as-state-lags-in-transfers/article_ab92fb6e-533c-11ee-86c0-

[fbb0ef822a1e.html#:~:text=The%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Intervention%20Center,76%2Dbed%20cap%20on%20Sept.](#)

City of New Orleans, *Juvenile Justice Intervention Center*, NOLA.GOV, (July 6, 2021), <https://nola.gov/juvenile-justice-intervention-center/>.

Sledge, *New Orleans juvenile jail chief was 'frequently absent,' made staffers care for dog, IG finds*, NOLA.COM, (Nov. 1, 2022), https://www.nola.com/news/politics/new-orleans-juvenile-jail-chief-was-frequently-absent-made-staffers-care-for-dog-ig-finds/article_9eca5c7a-595e-11ed-89c1-db21f408e355.html.