

To all who may be concerned:

September 30, 2024

With the current Sunset report released how is it not a consideration to overhaul the leadership of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice?

The most recent report prior to this review (July 2013) was quoted as saying "The Sunset review of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), Correctional Managed Health Care Committee, Windham School District, and Board of Pardons and Paroles determined that overall, **the State's adult criminal justice system is working well.**"

The (2024-25) report is quoted as saying "This Sunset review occurred in the context of both TDCJ's systemwide prison lockdown due to unprecedented levels of contraband and violence, and inmate population projections that exceed TDCJ's operation capacity, **raising basic questions about the TDCJ's ability to handle its current and future realities.**"

Under our current leadership our agency has declined significantly. This letter is not to disparage all decisions and moves made by the current leadership, but to look at it holistically. Our agency is suffering, our people are suffering **because no one in the position to make the decisions will look at the problem in realistic terms.**

The agency should have an executive director with a background in leading a successful business, not history within the agency itself. There are a substantial number of staff that can guide an executive director with no criminal justice experience in the right direction concerning public safety. Looking at our agency historically, our executive director prior to the current executive director had little criminal justice experience but was business minded. Comparing the agency data when he left (to even before COVID which is the excuse we often get) you will see the significant decline in the most fundamental areas of the TDCJ.

How can each of our highest-ranking leaders receive upwards of, in some cases, five pay increases beginning in September 2022, not even four months after one of the highest profile, horrific prison breaks in TDCJ history (Lopez) since Carrasco and the Texas Seven? What message does this send the "boots on the ground" staff? That alone tells the entire agency that these positions are untouchable and creates a huge sense of feeling undervalued as a TDCJ employee.

Thank you,

Anonymous, because retaliation is a reality.