

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 11:31:01 AM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 11/13/2024 - 09:36

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about

[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Tina

Last Name

Flores

Email

City

Galveston

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

I am concerned with the food served to the residents at the units of TDCJ. The food is supposed to meet a certain daily caloric requirement . However I am concerned about the type of caloric requirement and more IMPORTANTLY, the nutritional requirements NOT being met. As a retired nurse, I am aware of the foods served at these units. There are NO fresh fruits served daily. There are very few vegetables served with the exception of beans and carrots. There is no squash, or beets, or broccoli or green beans or lettuce or tomatoes or cucumbers and many others, not being

served on a daily basis. There are a lot of “empty calories” being served such as potatoes and corn. The foods are in small portions , leaving many to still be hungry and have to resort to going back to their cells and eating the commissary snacks which are generally chips, cookies, crackers, soups which all contain large amounts of sodium! It is believed that 90% of the population of TDCJ are hypertensive and take some type of Blood Pressure medication along with cholesterol medication. In addition many are diabetic and although they are supposed to be given a “ diabetic” diet, many are served the same type of diet as everyone else! Why are they not being served more fish and chicken in their diet? These units raise chickens and pigs and cattle. They also grow many of the aforementioned fruits and vegetables. Why are these foods not allowed to be fed to the residents of these units. I don’t accept the idea that the “ empty calories” being fed to the residents are what the FDA has in mind when they set the standard for “ daily caloric intake”. It is no wonder that many of these residents suffer from heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and many dermatological conditions as well from lack of proper nutrition.

Your Proposed Solution

I propose that the nutritional guidelines be enforced with PROPER food items, I.e. fresh fruits and vegetables. These can be supplied by the units themselves that grow them in abundance in their gardens. Why should TDCJ be able to SELL these food items for a profit while the taxpayer is forced to pay for processed foods that provide no nutritional value and add to the health problems of the population!

In addition, the residents themselves are the ones growing and tending to these food products, without any kind of pay, yet TDCJ benefits from the sale of these fruits and vegetables. Why doesn’t TDCJ provide some of these nutritional food items to the residents to eat themselves in their daily meals?

Also, why not feed them with the poultry that is raised on these units instead of TDCJ selling these chickens for a profit? The same residents that raise, feed and care for these chickens should be able to be fed with them and remove the burden from the taxpayers to provide non-nutritional and carbohydrate-loaded, sodium filled empty caloric food items to these men and women at these units.

There are too many health problems at these units which can be improved, even RESOLVED by the simple change in diet to be replaced with the addition of fruits and vegetables home grown right there within the walls of TDCJ.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes