

July 25, 2022

Re: Louisville Metro Youth Detention Center Budget Request

On June 2nd, Louisville Metro Council President David James, Public Services Chief Matt Golden, and Deputy Mayor Ellen Hesen presented before the General Assembly's Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue to provide historical background and context to this issue and explain the need to expand and renovate the existing Jefferson Regional Juvenile Detention Center. (Enclosed is a summary of the presentation, attachment 1.)

There appears to be significant support from both local and statewide leaders in retrofitting and expanding the Jefferson Regional Juvenile Detention Center, located on LaGrange Road in the incorporated city of Lyndon in Jefferson County. This facility was formerly named the Audubon Youth Development Center, was not a detention center to hold juveniles, but was a development center to provide troubled juveniles with wrap-around services.

The Louisville community is asking the General Assembly for funding to expand this facility into a detention center with 40 beds and allow for the wrap-around services as originally intended. Renovations and upgrades need to be made to the facility to increase the beds from 20 to 40 and allow for long-term stays.

Metro had previously estimated the cost to the state to be approximately \$8.3 million, prior to a formal cost review by the state. This estimate is based on the previous investment made in FY20 and the state's average of cost per day for juvenile detention. Enclosed you will find a more detailed estimate from the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, which was provided to Louisville Metro Government after the June A&R presentation.

We look forward to continuing this conversation.

Sincerely,

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cc: Vickie Reed, Commissioner
David James, President Metro Council
Matt Golden, Chief
Ellen Hesen, Deputy Mayor

Enclosures (2)

Attachment 2

Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice Communication with Louisville Metro Government

re: Jefferson Regional Juvenile Detention Center (JRJDC bed expansion cost and issues)

The Construction and Real Properties Branch, CaRP, has been conducting a feasibility study to ascertain the most cost-effective method to finish the conversion of the former Audubon Youth Development Center, located in Jefferson County and now named the Jefferson Regional Juvenile Detention Center, into a secure detention facility that will bring the facility up to American Corrections Association's standards for detention. These safety and security issues must be addressed to ensure the safety of the residents and staff.

The proposal includes revision of the control room to ensure the safe and effective movement within the facility, the need for modifications to the sallyport and intake areas. It also gives estimates for the cost if all the remaining existing residential style cells are converted to "wet cells" (a lavatory within the cell). The conversion to wet cells will bring the available bed space up to 40. Thus far, the study has identified \$3,489,327 in cost to accomplish the needed safety and security updates as well as the additional bed capacity.

If the facility capacity is raised to 40 beds additional staff will be required. The ratio of residents to Youth Workers (basic line staff) during waking hours is required at 8:1. Additional supervisory staff, counseling staff, cook(s), and nurse(s) would also be required plus there are costs related to food, clothing, medical needs, supplies, and wear and tear on the building which increases with additional youth.

When fully staffed the current 26 bed facility cost \$4.75 million for operational costs. An additional 2-3 million would be required annually for operating costs if the facility beds were increased to 40.

It is important to note that DJJ is currently struggling to recruit and retain sufficient staff in the robust economy of Louisville to operate at a capacity of 26 and there is no indication this will improve anytime in the foreseeable future. Ultimately, the capacity of the building is based on the number of beds that can be staffed regardless of the physical space of the building. Adding additional beds is no guarantee all Jefferson youth will be able to remain at the Jefferson detention center.