



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
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DANIEL STATON
SHERIFF

Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

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April 14, 2016

Public Safety Partners,

As you know, current considerations for the Fiscal Year 2017 Multnomah County budget process include the de-funding of two housing areas at the Multnomah County Inverness Jail. This will reduce our county jail capacity by 118 beds, to a new total capacity of 1,192. This reduction would begin on July 1, 2016, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

As part of preparing for this reduction in jail capacity, a list of potential emergency population releases based on the new jail capacity of 1,192 was created to determine how many inmates would require forced release to bring the jail count to 95% of capacity (95% of capacity and above is considered a population emergency under the current capacity management plan). The initial list was run on March 30th. The results were troubling.

In order to reach a jail population number just under the threshold of a population emergency, which is not an ideal number but a manageable one, 94 inmates would have required forced release, nearly double the normal release number. In addition, and I think most serious, inmates with the following charges would have required release:

- Burglary I and Burglary II;
- Sex Abuse III;
- Aggravated ID Theft;
- Aggravated Harassment;
- Delivery of Heroin and Delivery of Heroin near a school;
- Robbery III;
- Felon in Possession of a Firearm; and,
- Crimes related to children including Child Neglect I and Mistreatment I.

Within the current jail capacity of 1,310 beds, we have not processed an emergency population release since November of 2013, and have exceeded 95% of capacity only 40 days since July of 2014. The current jail capacity has worked well for the local system for several years. However, with a recent increase in the jail population which will likely trend up during the summer months, the proposed reduced capacity number will create an environment of daily forced releases and a dramatic increase in the severity of charges of inmates being released back into the community.

In the coming weeks this Office will be working with our local public safety partners to find a solution to these concerns. We will continue our attempts to convince the Multnomah County Chair to restore funding for these vital jail beds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Staton".

Daniel Staton
Sheriff