

# Committee on Audit on 2024-12-02 12:00 PM - REVISION #1

Please note the addition of new Item 1, File No. 24-901, and new Item 6, File No. 24-889.

Meeting Time: 12-02-24 12:00

## eComments Report

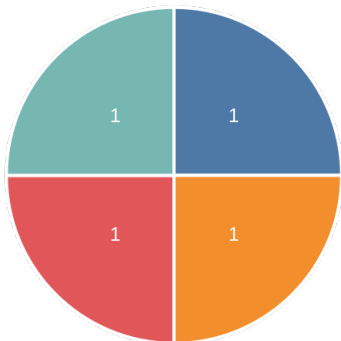
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Audit on 2024-12-02 12:00 PM - REVISION #1 Please note the addition of new Item 1, File No. 24-901, and new Item 6, File No. 24-889.	12-02-24 12:00	23	4	1	1	1

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (25%)   Oppose (25%)   Neutral (25%)  
No Response (25%)



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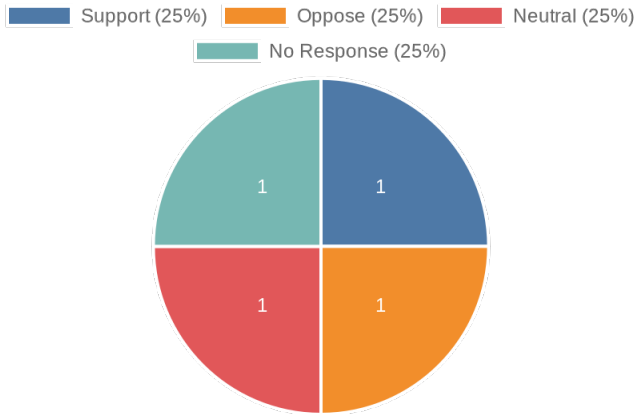
12-02-24 12:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
2 24-960 From the Director of Audits, submitting a report from Creative Corrections, LLC, regarding its external audit/evaluation of the Milwaukee County Jail. (Considered by the Committees on Audit; and Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and General Services) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)	4	1	1	1

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

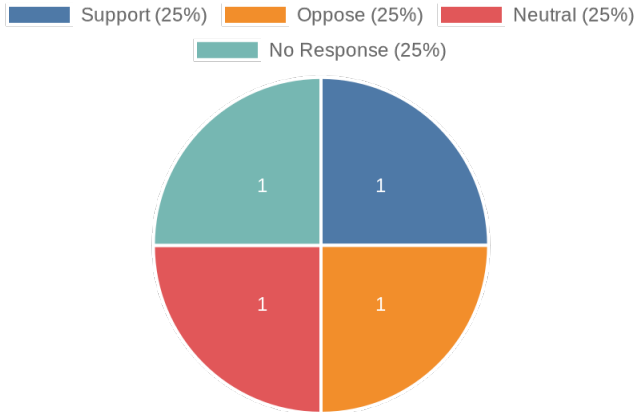
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**Overall Sentiment**



Agenda Item: eComments for 2 24-960 From the Director of Audits, submitting a report from Creative Corrections, LLC, regarding its external audit/evaluation of the Milwaukee County Jail. (Considered by the Committees on Audit; and Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and General Services) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

Overall Sentiment



**Olivia McClain**

Location:  
Submitted At: 1:02pm 12-02-24

Thank you for completing the audit. The results of the conditions in the jail are horrendous and need to change immediately. The Sheriff's office must: establish an effective inmate counting procedure; establish proper suicide watch standards and enforce these standards (despite not owning the jail this is still their responsibility as civil service); implement an independent body with directly elected members including inmates, like the Civilian Sheriff Accountability Council, to closely monitor jail conditions and hold the Sheriff's Office accountable to changes; and adopt SOP 575 on a County level. Find money within the Sheriffs budget to complete this critical work, without taking more funds as the MCSO already uses far too much of our financial resources and are failing miserably at their job.

**Eric Flores**

Location:  
Submitted At: 8:46am 12-02-24

I am furious with how the Audit for the Milwaukee County Jail was done. It seems as if the auditor and the MCSO went ahead and carried out the audit with little to no notification to the County Board - to only not receive a preliminary report as promised, but to solely receive the final report several days ago. The Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, families of victims who have lost their loved ones in the MCJ, and its allies mobilized to speak at /multiple/ meetings with the County Board and we all had the same message: we demand substantial community input which includes inmates, former inmates, loved ones of inmates, and Milwaukee County community members. Instead, we got this half-hearted report.

The folks most affected by the conditions in the jail, inmates and loved ones of the inmates, were simply left out with the exception of 40 inmates, Creative Corrections stated that the mental health department at the MCJ was a strength (WHICH IT IS NOT AS HISTORY SHOWS MULTIPLE PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THEIR OWN LIVES IN THE JAIL AND THAT IT IS CONTRACTED OUT TO A NOW BANKRUPT AGENCY,) and it clearly glanced over

the overcrowding of the MCJ. Citing "more staffing" as a "corrective strategy" won't fix these issues and you all know it after years and years of throwing money at the Sheriff's office!

The corrective strategies that are to be considered should come from the people of Milwaukee County who have been and still are affected by the mismanagement of the MCJ. This can be done by giving us greater transparency in what goes on in the jail so it can inform actual corrective strategies - not to throw more money at the MCSO so can be millions of dollars in the hole yet again.

One important way that we can inform an effective corrective strategy is to have a town hall with Sheriff Denita Ball. We have been asking for this for multiple years now and something of this nature would be easy for a public official such as the Sheriff. We need a town hall now.

Our communities, the incarcerated, and the families of the victims in the MCJ deserve better.

### **Hope Rogers**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:45pm 12-01-24

I am neutral because I oppose the rushed nature of the recently released November audit and the lack of community input, but I support the creation of a more thorough audit and a formal structure for community members to inform the actions of the sheriff's office and jail system.

I am writing to urge the Milwaukee County Jail officials to perform a more complete audit of the current system and to provide more opportunities for community members to make decisions about the incarceration system. The current November audit reveals what appears to be only a portion of the inhumane conditions in the county's jails. Among the findings are clear examples of unsafe conditions due to overcrowding, staffing shortages, and completely inadequate suicide watch protocols. However, the audit does not even include a clear head count of incarcerated individuals, nor does it include very much input from them directly as it cites fewer than 40 inmates' input.

As a new resident of Milwaukee County, I urge Sheriff Ball and the audit team to listen to community members' concerns about the current conditions in the county jails, and better yet, grant community members decision-making power in how the jails are run. Rather than spending energy on seemingly covering up the inhumane conditions inside the jails, invest in improving those conditions and keeping people in their neighborhoods rather than incarcerated.

### **MARLENE MUSCHELEWICZ**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:43pm 12-01-24

Good afternoon, my name is Marlene Muschelewicz and I would like to comment on the recent audit of the Milwaukee County Jail and crucial next steps. This audit highlights abysmal conditions within the jail, particularly in regards to mental health and suicide prevention. Under no circumstances can cuffing someone to a bench for hours on end count as mental healthcare. However, this was noted in the audit as a means used within the jail to monitor inmates at risk for suicide. This practice is truly shameful, and as the audit noted it must cease immediately. As was also noted in the audit, inmates on suicide watch generally are not even initially assessed by the mental health team, but simply placed under strict observation protocols in inhumane conditions, for a mandatory 24 hour period. Which, as recent suicide deaths in the jail have shown, are not even sufficient for safely monitoring those in your care. Things need to change. The overcrowding, which was not even quantified in the audit, surely exacerbates all other existing issues. These concerns must be accurately assessed by an independent body involving community members, including inmates, which can be involved in developing plans for clearly needed improvements. This could be achieved with a Civilian Sheriff Accountability Council, with members who are directly elected, with current inmates able to participate directly as well. This council must be able to closely and accurately monitor conditions, on an ongoing basis, and develop plans for necessary improvements. A lack of oversight and accountability are clear issues, cited repeatedly throughout the audit report, and this needs to be addressed. A county wide policy similar to SOP 575 would further improve transparency and accountability, which are so clearly needed. The audit was a first step in identifying areas that require improvement, and the next steps must be handled with great care to show a willingness to accept and implement needed change.