

Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

June 27, 2022

Dear Charter Review Committee Members:

Please see below my responses to your questions about jail inspections.

Question 1: How would the commissioner/chair describe the purpose of the current inspections of county correctional facilities?

Under state law, the purpose of jail inspections is to “examine fully into the local correctional facility, including, but not limited to, the cleanliness of the facility and the health and discipline of the persons confined.” (ORS 169.040)

In my view, the purpose is broader. Inspections help the Board gain a better understanding of jail operations, which is necessary for informing policy and budget decisions; and also serve the broader oversight function of assessing and improving jail facilities, conditions, and services provided to people in custody, including physical and mental health care, enrichment, re-entry, and wrap-around services.

Question 2: What information is typically provided to the board during these inspections?

Because of COVID, I have only been on one jail tour. We were provided an overview of jail operations and services, and, as we walked through the facilities, a more detailed description of various parts of the facility, staffing, processes for taking people into custody, health care, and wrap around services.

Question 3: Is there a report or some other form of public communication that happens after the board inspects correctional facilities to educate the public about the board's observations?

No

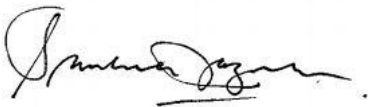
Question 4: Does the commissioner/chair think the inspections could be improved or expanded? If so, how?

It would be very informative to have a chance to engage with people in custody, perhaps through a small group conversation.

Question 4: What does the commissioner/chair think about the requirement to do four inspections a year with three constituents?

The tour is time-intensive and difficult to schedule. As I stated in my memo to the MCCRC dated June 10, 2022, I do not believe additional tours would provide sufficient new information to make the time and effort required worthwhile. I do like the idea of including constituents, and would suggest that they be members of the MCSO Community Budget Advisory Committee. The CBAC would have some foundational understanding of MCSO operations that would help inform their experience on the tour, and conversely, the tour could inform their review of the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susheela Jayapal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Susheela Jayapal