

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR



DERRICK D. SCHOFIELD
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
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August 28, 2014

The Honorable Don Edwards
Morgan County Executive
P.O. Box 387
Wartburg, TN 37887

Dear Mr. Edwards:

I am writing in response to the Resolution adopted by the Morgan County Legislative Body opposing the Department's proposed implementation of a 28-day schedule for security staff at the Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX). I would like to take this opportunity to explain the benefits of the 28-day schedule and the Department's decision to implement a pilot program.

The 28-day schedule is a program we have studied extensively. The program will be implemented slowly and evaluated on an on-going basis. Implementation at MCCX has not yet been scheduled.

I believe the 28-day schedule is best for this department. I know there will be some who are uncomfortable with this change. However, I believe the benefits for the department include better shift coverage, less mandatory overtime, and the reintegration of shift briefings. The benefits are not just for the department but for our security team as well. These benefits include better off-day rotations, lower usage of leave when scheduling vacation, and less employee burnout due to a longer off period.

This model is used by law enforcement agencies across the state including the Department of Safety, TBI, Department of Commerce and Insurance, and the Law Enforcement Training Academy. We have talked about the pros and cons of the 28-day schedule, and everyone we spoke with enjoys the flexibility of the time period.

I appreciate the input from the Legislative Body and assure you the concerns reflected in the Resolution will be considered as we evaluate the program. We value the longstanding relationship between this Department and Morgan County. We share the County's interest in the fair treatment of staff at MCCX, and in the safety of staff, inmates, and the Morgan County community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.D. Schofield".

Derrick D. Schofield

DDS:DKI

pc: Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor