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Dear Senators and Representatives:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-532, Arizona Correctional Sergeant Contreras is submitting the whistleblower disclosure attached below.

Sgt Contreras' disclosure is about the Morey broken cell door locks and ADC's attempts, *this week*, to cover up the full extent of the problem.

We understand that today some legislators are touring the Lewis Prison. Based on our sources at Lewis we believe that tour route was cherry picked to avoid the critical problems.

If you want to really know what is happening at the Morey Unit, watch Sgt Contreras' interview on ABC15 at 6 pm tonight.

And as always, if you have questions or concerns, we at AZCPOA will be glad to meet with you privately or in a committee setting to discuss ADC's ongoing security failures that seriously threaten the safety of the front line corrections staff and inmates.

May 15, 2019

ARS § 38-352 WHISTLEBLOWING DISCLOSURE

VIOLATIONS AT ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Doug Ducey
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

This letter is a whistleblowing disclosure pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-532 reporting what I believe to be matters of public concern that evidence violations of law, mismanagement, gross waste of monies or abuse of authority.

I am a Sergeant with the Arizona Department of Corrections assigned to the Morey Unit at ASPC Lewis. At the Morey Unit I personally witnessed the broken cell door locks, other security breaches, and dangerously low staffing. I did my best to ensure my staff and inmates were safe and secure. I reported broken cell door locks, missing pins, and other security issues. I expected my chain of command to take employee safety and safety of inmates seriously and act on the reports of security concerns. The chain did not. In late 2018 it was clear that no action was being taken to address the broken cell door locks and other safety issues. I got tired of seeing my fellow officers assaulted day after day because the locks were broken. I decided to take action. It seemed to me that if the public saw the deplorable conditions in Morey, like inmates opening their own cell doors to attack officers, that ADC and other State officials would wake up and take action. I downloaded and copied just a few of the videos of officers being attacked at Morey and Buckley units. I arrived at the ultimate realization, that the videos contained a crime other than the obvious inmates assaulting staff but rather, the cell doors that we, as staff, had reported over and over again as being broken, being opened by the inmates themselves by simply pushing their doors open because our administration has failed to correct the situation thus endangering our lives. I arranged to get those videos to the media. Before ABC15 aired the story, the Department of Corrections discovered that I had downloaded videos and retaliated against me. I was placed under an investigation and disciplined, given a week off without pay, even after I expressed severe concern for staff and inmate safety in the actual investigation and as the content of the video clearly shows. They addressed me but never the crime that is plainly evident in the video. After the story aired, deputy warden Scott began talking about firing me to various personal, to include the Lewis Complex Warden. His uncouth behavior and vocal opinions about me have made it difficult for me to perform my job duties because his comments are marring my reputation. Further, because of the disciplinary sanction imposed on me, I am now excluded from promoting to correctional officer III. I understand the only reason I wasn't fired is that the Lewis Complex Warden is under the impression that your office warned ADC not to retaliate against employees.

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After learning that you initiated an investigation into the Lewis situation, I was hopeful that the problems would be addressed. Unfortunately, the same people who deliberately ignored Morey security issues are now interfering with your efforts to address the situation.

On May 13, 2019 I, along with other Morey supervisors, were tasked with examining every cell door in the Morey unit and preparing a report identifying each broken cell door. My understanding is that this was a report requested by your office. We were deliberate and thorough and created a comprehensive report with supporting IR's. We submitted our findings to the command staff.

However, deputy warden Travis Scott advised the Chief of security to not allow us to leave until we had made the following modification: The deputy warden was outraged that we reported all of the deficiencies we found. He told us that we were only to count the cell doors that opened on their own when the padlock was removed— and that we should not have included cell doors that opened with a slight jiggle or push or be caused to register an Unauthorized Access alert on the computer on this report but that rather, these other deficiencies were to be reported on a separate report to be included with the SDI report. I was shocked and appalled. I believe the deputy warden is intentionally minimizing the significant Morey issues, presenting you with false and/or misleading information, and falsifying public records. My concern is that if we do not start with an accurate count of all broken cell doors, they might not all get repaired. Officers and inmates will remain exposed to unacceptable and unsafe conditions.

Best regards,

Gabriela Contreras

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Contreras', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval scribble.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Information Report

Report Number	19-L23-01021
Report Date	05/7/2019
Page	1 of 2

To Rivera	Title Lt.	Unit Morey		
From Juarez	Title Sgt	Unit Morey		
Subject Security Device Issue				
Staff Involved				
Employee Name <i>(Last, First M.I.)</i>	Title	Badge Number		
Employee Name <i>(Last, First M.I.)</i>	Title	Badge Number		
Intel				
Intelligence Category 1		Intelligence Category 2		
Source Type	Source's Last Name	Source's ADC Number		
Inmates Involved				
Inmate Name <i>(Last, First M.I.)</i>	ADC Number	Unit	HU/BED	Involved As
Inmate Name <i>(Last, First M.I.)</i>	ADC Number	Unit	HU/BED	Involved As
Time 0800	Date 05/7/2019	Location Morey unit		
Summary				
<p>Summary</p> <p>On 5/7/2019 at approximately 0800 hours security device inspection was conducted at the Morey unit for the cell doors with the following discrepancies. Blue side had two discrepancy HU2D-10 cell does not operate properly; and Hu 2A/B entry slider does not secure without assistance. Housing unit 4 had the following discrepancies 4A pod cells, 20, 21,22,6,14 and 15; 4B pod cells 13,15,21,22; 4C pod cells 6,8,11,14,15,16,25 and 4D pod cells 17,16,14,13,10,5,and 4. Hosing 3 has the following discrepancies 3C pod 4, 21, 25; 3D pod 8,16,17,22 and 4B pod cell 19.</p>				
Employee's Signature			Title	
Action Taken				
Comments/Action Taken Forward up to Admin for review				
Employee's Signature			Title	
Distribution <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			Entered into Database	
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____			By _____ Date _____	

Sincerely,

AZCPOA
Arizona Correctional Peace Officers Association
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