



---

## The Illinois Department of Corrections

---

1301 Concordia Court, P.O. Box 19277 • Springfield, IL 62794-9277 • (217) 558-2200 TDD: (800) 526-0844

February 23, 2022

Senator Jason Barickman, 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Senator Terri Bryant, 58<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Jason Plummer, 54<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Thomas Bennett, 106<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Dan Brady, 105<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Paul Jacobs, 115<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Charlie Meier, 108<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Blaine Wilhour, 107<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Patrick Windhorst, 118<sup>th</sup> District

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

In response to your letter dated February 11, 2022, please see the Illinois Department of Corrections answers to your questions below:

**How many individuals in custody have been transferred out of the Pontiac and Vandalia Correctional Centers in the last twelve months?**

In the past year, we have moved 317 individuals in custody out of Pontiac (Proper and Medium Security Unit (MSU)) and 84 individuals in custody out of Vandalia. With the exception of the 170 emergency moves out of the Pontiac MSU recently, due to the lack of hot water in the living units, these were just normal transfers that occur due to disciplinary reasons, RTU movement, reduction in security classification, removal from Protective Custody, etc. To date, no transfers have occurred as a result of the consolidation plans out of Pontiac or Vandalia.

**How many individuals in custody will be transferred out of those facilities during the current calendar year?**

There is no way to accurately estimate future transfers. However, as a result of the consolidation plan, 146 individuals in custody will be transferred from Pontiac MSU. All individuals in custody at Vandalia will remain on site but they will be moved to the newer facility on grounds.

**What plans are in place for transferring those individuals in custody back to those facilities or to move other individuals in custody in to take their place?**

---

*Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change for those in custody, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.*

At Pontiac MSU, there are no plans to return individuals in custody as this will be closed permanently. Vandalia will not have individuals in custody transferred out so no one will return.

**What are the deferred maintenance needs of the Pontiac and Vandalia Correctional Centers?**

IDOC continues to meet with the Capital Development Board (CDB) and discuss funding priorities. However, it is worth noting that our total request to CDB is over 225 projects with a combined value of \$930 million. That said, within the total figures our needs for Pontiac and Vandalia comprise 19 projects with an estimate value of \$78 million.

**What areas of those two correctional centers have been closed (temporarily or permanently) or are not currently in use for housing individuals in custody?**

Dorms J, K, L & M at Vandalia have been vacated.

**What areas of those two correctional centers will soon be closed (temporarily or permanently) or will not be in use for housing individuals in custody?**

The Medium Security Unit at Pontiac and the East/West Cellhouse will be closed permanently. Dorms A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, Restrictive Housing and R will be closed permanently.

**What are the plans for repairs or upgrades of the areas that already have been, or will be closed or not in use for housing inmates?**

The vacated buildings will no longer be used to house individuals in custody, but they will be maintained as it relates to plumbing and routine cleaning.

**What capital requests have been made by the Department for those facilities and what is the status of those requests?**

Pontiac

- Active projects
  - Renovate Individual in Custody Kitchen & Cold Storage - \$11,846,809
  - Replace roof, repair masonry & tuckpointing - \$6,150,901
  - Repair roof of East/West cellhouse - \$463,600
  - Assess boilers - \$803,857
- Current requests
  - Replace boilers, water softeners, boiler feed tubes, repair condensate leaks and repair reverse osmosis systems - \$800,000
  - Re-route utilities and demolish building - \$1,500,000
  - Replace roofing system – physical plant, auxiliary, training center - \$2,678,900
  - Replace all faucets and other plumbing fixtures in North/South cell houses - \$4,829,800
  - Replace sprinkler piping - \$3,359,500
  - Renovate Officers kitchen in Administration Building - \$200,000
  - Construct doorway on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Security Tower 5/6 - \$250,000

- Replace doors and Locks at MSU - \$3,000,000
- Replace plumbing fixtures in MSU dorms - \$2,500,000
- Repair/Replace HVAC and Replace steam traps and pipe for condensate return in North cellhouse - \$8,182,900
- Replace all dumbwaiters - \$2,500,000
- Replace laundry equipment - \$1,750,000
- Resurface all steam tunnel tops - \$5,308,900
- Replace heating systems in MSU dorms - \$3,000,000
- Replace Tower 22 - \$1,500,000
- Repair, Repave and Expand Employee Parking Lots - \$3,500,00
- Erect new towers - \$8,987,100

Vandalia

- No active projects
- Current request – 120-240-R, Construct 1 building housing HealthCare Unit, Administration, Visiting Room & Armory – estimated cost - \$10,000,000

**Does the Illinois Department of Corrections have any plans to close all, parts, or either of those facilities permanently? If so, what is the timeline for any closures?**

Yes, Pontiac MSU, Pontiac East/West Cellhouse and Vandalia proper will be closing permanently. At this time, the estimated timeline is March 2022 through August 2022.

The Department plans to consolidate the Pontiac medium security unit, in order to provide immediate staffing relief that will assist the maximum-security unit and allow for sufficient out of cell time to comply with the requirements of the *Rasho* consent decree. This will result in neither closure of the facility nor any layoffs: in fact, based on the current vacancy rate, Pontiac will look to in fact *hire* additional corrections officers. This decision is in line with our desire for a more efficient Department of Corrections that provides a safer environment for both the residents in our care and the correctional officers who operate our facilities.

Sincerely,

  
Rob Jeffrey  
Director



