

Norfolk Inmate Council
Executive Board
2 Clark Street / P.O. Box 43
Norfolk MA. 02056

February 09, 2026

RE: MCI-Norfolk
CSU Inhumane Actions

MCI-Norfolk administrators have cancelled the annual prisoner donations to the CSU for the Christmans Holiday. The rational is one prisoner cannot give another prisoner an item of value. In spite of the fact that for better than 15 years the NIC has collected donations from the prisoner population to provide for other prisoners in the CSU (Critical Stabilization Unit) gift bags. These donations have been approved by all past administrations to include but not limited to: Nelson Alves, (Current) DOC Chief of Staff, Current Superintendent Kenneth Lizotte, (last year), Deputy of Reentry, Holly Rossi & former Director of Treatment Sarah Wilbar (Smith).

However this year Mr. Lizotte and Deputy Rossi in conjunction with the New Unit Manager Amy Morin have reversed course and denied this positive community activity for the patients and general prison population.

The NIC's contention is that this is not one prisoner giving another prisoner an item of value. But it has always been viewed by all as the general prison population donating sealed canteen items to the Norfolk Inmate Council (NIC) as a group/organization and then the NIC organization donates these items to the prisoners confined to the CSU.

Also the same type donations occurred monthly in the form of Bingo donations and this was able to get all CSU prisoner/patients out of bed and interacting while providing badly needed canteen items. However this was discontinued under the current Administrations hard line tactics.

At this current time CSU prisoner/patients are able to go out on fresh air a few hours a week. However the NIC has been informed that when the New CSU is open that prisoner/patients will not be able go out and watch a soccer game, basketball game or other activities around the yard in the prison, increasing social interaction and positive cognitive impact. The rational for this is the ADL (medical unit) runs it like this. However while acknowledging that the CSU at MCI-Norfolk is a lower level of care than the ADL at Shirley Medium. This will turn the medical unit at Norfolk (CSU) into another form of segregation.

The reduction of prisoner companion job positions caring for CSU prisoner/patients have been reduced from 13 to 9 with no one designated for fresh air. Which has drastically reduced time out of the medical ward.

Recently an action by this Administartion has been to punish CSU Prisoner/Patients with loss of bed side TV's.

In brief two of these prisoner/patients clearly suffer from cognitive issues and

part of their impairment is that sometimes they get angry and frustrated so to sanction/punish them with loss of bed side TV because of a cognitive issue is cruel. To compound this is the inhumane act one CSU Prisoner/Patient is confined to a wheel chair. It has been reported at least in one case the officer who issued the disciplinary report in question referred to the prisoners case for which he is incarcerated in a defamitory manner. Prisoner/Patients should feel safe and not intimidated. One Prisoner/Patient when speaking thought his TV was out for repair and did not understand it was taken for punitive reasons. Under disciplinary regulation the purposes of disciplinary sanctions is to "educate" the person and change behavior not to continue in the same actions. However when one is addressing a cognitive issue such as these prisoner/patients struggle with there is no education it is simply an aspect of the decline in cognitive function which cannot be corrected by punitive acts. This action is resulting in punishment for punitive reasons only.

These harsh actions in the CSU are inhuman and there is no effort to make conditions better but to only further traumatize these people in the end stages of life. Acts such as this makes many prisoners say "Before I get to the CSU I will end it". Not willing to be subject to harsh and inhumane treatment by staff and administrators. These may seem like minor things but when you have prisoner/patients who cannot work or attend programing and earn money or defend themselves these are small comforts which provides some humanity and peace in the fragility of age.

This only further details the need for change in the DOC to have new leadership throughout the DOC. The tax payers and citizens of the commonwealth should not fall for fancy press releases which do not display a true picture behind the walls and fences of the DOC.

Respectfully Offered,

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cc: file