

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Expressing the sense of Council regarding the potential for providing hazard pay for corrections officers employed at the Allegheny County Jail.

Whereas, approximately 1,700 to 1,800 people are generally held in the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) at this time, often in crowded conditions that involve sharing cells, eating quarters, recreation areas, sinks, toilets, and all other amenities and facilities; and

Whereas, hundreds of staff, defense attorneys, contractors, and other individuals enter and leave the facility each day, returning to their families and communities throughout Allegheny County, potentially carrying infections from the jail to their homes and communities and vice versa; and

Whereas, at all times, incarcerated individuals, visitors, contractors and employees must be monitored and managed by corrections officers, who are charged with maintaining the safety of all individuals in the County Jail; and

Whereas, individuals incarcerated at the ACJ often lack hygiene items, which are vitally important in fighting the spread of COVID-19, and the system for distribution of hygiene items, clean linens, disinfectants, and the like is not optimized to minimize disease transmission amid a pandemic, and staff and other individuals in the ACJ will carry this virus back to their families and communities once they are exposed to it; and

Whereas, public health experts have advised that we practice social distancing as a means of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and this is simply not possible at ACJ; and

Whereas, in addition to the stresses incurred in the course of their daily employment, corrections officers must also cope with the potential for contracting COVID-19 themselves, the accompanying dangers to their and their families' health, potential impacts upon their and their families' current and continued employment, and additional requirements and procedures relating to attempting to mitigate the spread of the disease within the ACJ, and

Whereas, it is therefore the judgment of Council that some form of hazard pay should be provided to corrections officers employed at the ACJ;

The Council of the County of Allegheny therefore hereby moves as follows:

It is the sense of Council that some form of hazard pay should be provided to corrections officers employed at the Allegheny County Jail, and that the administrative branch of the County government should take steps - including but not limited to introduction of any budgetary or other legislation that may be necessary - to accomplish this goal with all deliberate speed.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER HALLAM

CO-SPONSORS: COUNCIL MEMBER BENNETT

Read and approved in Council, this _____ day of _____, 2021,

Council Agenda No. _____

**Patrick Catena
President of Council**

Attest: _____
**Jared E. Barker, Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council**