

**Michigan
Council 25**



AFSCME

ALERT

We Make Michigan Happen

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee, AFL-CIO

Albert Garrett, President

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Department of Corrections Food Services It's Time To Take Action!

AFSCME Members, it's time to take **ACTION!** Please be advised of the recent Auditor General's (Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.) Report on Food Services for the Department of Corrections. The report leans towards recommending privatization of Food Services. This report can be found on the following website:

<http://audgen.michigan.gov>

Please take the time to read and provide comments to the Auditor General's Office. Below you will find some important issues regarding the recent report that were raised on your behalf from **AFSCME's** Legislative and Public Policy Director, Nick Ciaramitaro:

- The Department failed to point out the limitations of the Auditor's report.
- The Audit failed to take note of the fact that contracting out food services has already been tried in Michigan with a huge **increase** in cost.
- Several years ago Huron Valley facility outsourced food service to the Marriott Corporation with a cost of \$12 to \$16 per inmate per day. The current costs are around \$4.30 per inmate today. This figure covers all food service including food, prisoner wages, operating expenditures, staff wages and benefits.
- The private system was abandoned not only because of its costs but the resulting increase in state security costs.
- Allegan County Detention contracted with Canteen at \$6.75 per day several years ago.
- Low priced proposals are loss leaders which do not include security costs and subsequently costs rise due to the added costs needed to return to the more economic public service system.
- Only two states were cited and there is no indication as to whether or not any of these factors were taken into consideration in those states. Other states were not apparently looked at or did not verify the results.
- Services and benefits of public employees often not included in contracted services are:
 - training of prisoners for outside employment
 - energy reduction
 - accreditation
 - security
 - double duty by employees
 - specialized skills in dealing with dangerous inmates
 - low turnover rates
 - nutritional concerns (including federal food requirements)
 - decreased likelihood of litigation due to specialized nature of the services noted

Please take the time to Contact the Auditor General's Office and provide any additional information in which the Auditor failed to recognize in his report at:

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