



EC LEG MAY 11 '26 PM 3:45

Dear Legislator St. Jean Tard,

As the Erie County Corrections Specialist Advisory Board, we have the privilege of interfacing with the Erie County Sheriff's Office on a regular basis to discuss concerns, needs, and positive engagements with both the individuals currently incarcerated within the Erie County Correctional Facilities and the Sheriff's Office employees.

One of the topics that came up during our meetings with the Superintendent, and during the board members' visits to the holding center and correctional facility, was the surveillance systems. The Erie County Holding Center received an upgrade to their camera systems and per anecdotal accounts from various ECSO employees, has been beneficial in a variety of ways and provides reliable surveillance which ultimately protects both inmates and staff by ensuring transparency and supporting proper conduct within the facility.

It is our understanding that the current camera system at the Erie County Correctional Facility poses a safety concern as there are identified blind spots that the cameras do not reach, and the data system to review the footage is not as efficient as others that are available. Funding an upgraded camera system for the jail offers several tangible benefits, both in the immediate and long term. It enhances the ability to monitor activities throughout the facility in real time, allowing for faster responses to emergencies or incidents. Improved technology can also increase the clarity and reliability of footage, which is vital for investigations and legal proceedings. Moreover, an updated system can help reduce liability for the county by ensuring that accurate records are kept, supporting fair treatment and addressing grievances more efficiently. Investing in these upgrades demonstrates a commitment to safety, transparency, and the well-being of everyone within the jail environment.

If you would like further documentation or discussion of the Erie County Corrections Advisory Board's support for the approval of the upgrades to the camera system at the Correctional Facility, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

The Erie County Corrections Advisory Board, and Chair Lindsey Allen