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**Urgent: reporter inquiry regarding WCCF audit**

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To: Alysia Santo <asanto@themarshallproject.org>

Fri, May 24, 2019 at 5:15 PM

This is the MDOC's response to your request/ inquiry:

The Mississippi Department of Corrections holds its vendors accountable for carrying out its mission to provide secure facilities.

This administration has zero tolerance for illegal activity behind prison walls and works diligently with its vendors to provide secure operations to further that mission.

In this partnership, there are ongoing efforts to improve operations for the secure custody and control of residents in custody.

As such, the department is aware that one of its vendors, MTC, conducted an audit recently of the Wilkinson County Correctional Facility, which the company manages.

While MDOC is awaiting an official copy of the report, MTC has assured the department that it began immediately to address weaknesses identified from the audit and continues to make changes, including hiring a new warden at the facility.

Because efforts are ongoing with MTC regarding operational challenges and remedies at the facility, discussing specifics would be premature.

However, under no circumstances would the MDOC convey that it condones or encourages the use of gangs to manage inmate behavior. Such an assertion contradicts the public safety mission of the agency and is one that the MDOC vehemently denies. Likewise, the agency vouches for its classification system, which is based on state law, agency policy, and a validated instrument, and objects to statements attacking the integrity of the system.

As a matter of practice, the MDOC does not discuss its security protocol nor ongoing criminal matters.

The MDOC values its partnership with MTC and all of its other vendors.

[Quoted text hidden]