



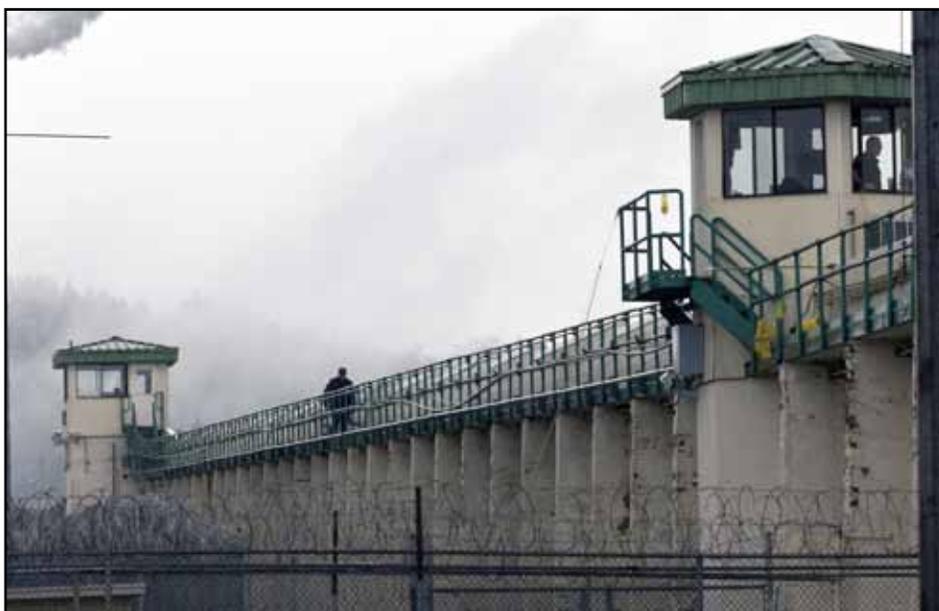
The Guardian

News from the hardworking men and women of DOC
Members of Teamsters Local 117

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DEFEND AGAINST THE CUTS

Special Session convenes on November 28



TAKE ACTION NOW: Contact your legislators at 1-800-562-6000 and defend against the cuts!

With a special session of the Legislature set to convene on November 28, our State representatives face a daunting challenge: how to plug a gaping \$2 billion budget deficit for the remainder of the 2011-2013 biennium.

Given the extent of the budget crisis, programs, facilities, and positions at all State agencies will be on the chopping block.

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED CUTS

At the DOC, the Governor has stated that her preferred alternatives are to cut offender supervision, reduce chemical dependency programming, and release low and moderate risk offenders, including sex offenders, 150 days early. The early release of these offenders would not only impact hundreds of DOC jobs, it would significantly undermine public safety.

HEALTH CARE REOPENER

On October 26, the Governor's budget director, Marty Brown, asked corrections' and other state employees to reopen their health care agreement in a further attempt to cut costs.

Teamsters joined with other unions in rejecting that request.

REPURPOSING OF OLD MAIN

Some of the Governor's cuts are already in the works. The repurposing of units at Old Main at WSP from medium to minimum security is well underway, a change that will adversely impact the lives of 140 DOC staff and their families.

Given all that corrections' professionals have sacrificed over the last three years, further cuts at the DOC are almost unimaginable.

CUTS, CUTS AND MORE CUTS

Since 2008, the State has closed three prisons, eliminated 1200 staff positions, and cut the Corrections' budget by \$250 million.

This year, DOC staff are experiencing a 3% wage reduction along with higher premium share and out-of-pocket health care costs.

DEFEND AGAINST THE CUTS

So how do we, as Teamsters at DOC, fight these proposals that will continue to gut the Department, slash jobs, and put corrections' staff and our communities at risk?

The first step is to dig in and defend.

Your Union's political action team is already meeting with legislators, but they cannot do it alone.

"I've had lots of conversations with legislators and it's clear that the special session will be all about the cuts," said Local 117 Lobbyist Teresita Torres.

"We need people to testify in Olympia about how the cuts will impact them and their families. We also need people to contact their legislators directly," she said.

It's not enough to simply say "no more cuts." With an additional \$2 billion deficit to address, our Legislature must come up with a revenue plan. An all-cuts budget is not a meaningful, long-term solution.

1-800-562-6000 - CALL NOW!

This is a moment of reckoning. If you haven't contacted your State representatives at 1-800-562-6000 to tell them how devastating more cuts to the DOC will be, you must do so now. Tell them that the State must also develop a plan to generate more revenue to fund the DOC.

CALL NOW! Our lives and our livelihoods as corrections' professionals are at stake!

A message from your Director of Corrections



IT'S TIME TO STEP UP AND LOOK IN THE MIRROR!

Folks, as citizens of Washington State, we are facing one of the worst budget shortfalls in history. This is real. All public services, whether they affect public safety or not, are in jeopardy. Gone are the days when the public and the Legislature would never think about cutting public safety. Everything is on the chopping-block. This, unbelievably, now includes corrections and law enforcement.

Regardless of your politics, all of us must acknowledge that there is an attack on public employees across this great land of ours, especially in our own backyard, from both sides of the aisle. There are prison privatization efforts sweeping across the country. Just last session, Legislators in our State proposed laws to gut collective bargaining rights that would have directly affected you. There was even chatter about privatizing our own State's prisons. The State Senate did not pass interest arbitration that was specifically designed for your safety...your safety! The general public believes the news reports that things are now safer in the State's prisons. Bloggers are now placing the blame for Officer Jayme Biendl's murder on her co-workers instead of the monster that stole her life. Do you realize that you are under attack?

As hard as our Union staff are working for you, we cannot do it alone. Your Union is not the 41 staff. We are 15,000 members – 5,500 DOC members - strong! Look in the mirror, you are the Union!

One of the toughest things I have witnessed in this role was during our fight in the Senate for your interest arbitration bill. We put out the call for DOC members to pack the hearing room as a show of force. Sadly, less than two dozen DOC members showed up, and we did not even fill two rows of seats. The room was packed that day though, but with over 100 citizens that showed up in solidarity to protest cuts to the arts or the parks. More people turned out for that issue than for the lives and well-being of the brave men and women in our prisons.

With the Special Session starting on November 28, and DOC on the block to be cut by up to \$160 million, I cannot stress enough how critically important it is that every one of you get involved to say, "Enough is enough!" Your Legislators must hear from every one of you immediately, as the power of even 5 phone calls from constituents can affect change! Call 1-800-562-6000!

I will tell you this respectfully, from one former public safety professional to another. If you don't step up to fight for your lives and livelihoods at DOC, things will not change in Olympia. DOC will be slashed. It is time to pull together folks. No more excuses and no more apathy. We are 5,500 DOC members strong and have an incredibly powerful voice if you choose to use it. You must get involved now!

As always, stay safe and thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

James V. Smith II
Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement

DOC TRUMPETS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - REAL CONCERNS REMAIN

On November 3, DOC hosted a media event out at the Monroe Correctional Complex, which included a briefing for more than a dozen reporters at the Washington State Reformatory.

A statewide report on safety conditions had been released just two days earlier and DOC was eager to highlight changes made since the tragic murder of Officer Jayme Biendl on January 29.

DOC EAGER TO TRUMPET CHANGE

A reporter from a major news outlet had this to say about the event:

"It was essentially a dog and pony show," she confided.

Your Local Union's Director of Corrections and Law Enforcement, Jim Smith, agreed.

"While it's true that some improvements have been made, we've still got a long way to go to insure a safe working environment for corrections' staff," he said.

SAFETY COMMITTEE ISSUES REPORT

Smith, along with Lawrence Adamire of CBCC, Ronny Matsen of SCCC, and Dan Wistie of WCC, among others, participated for the Union in the statewide safety committee meetings that were legislated under ESB 5907.

Although some concerns have been addressed by the local and statewide committees, Adamire noted, "It is still very much a work in progress."

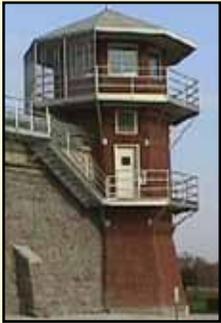
A few of the concerns the Union team outlined that have yet to be adequately addressed, include:

- staffing levels stretched too thin
- continued single-person posts
- no OC for single-person posts
- lack of cameras in key areas
- no rest breaks on 8-hour shifts
- inmate classification overrides/reviews

You can view the safety committee's full report on the DOC News Ticker of your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org.

REPURPOSING COSTS WSP 140 JOBS

Bargaining over impacts is underway



Changes at Old Main

In October, the Governor endorsed a plan to close or repurpose four units of the Main Institution at WSP, and that process is well underway.

Some medium custody units are slated to become minimum custody, costing the State 140 jobs.

"It's a bulldozer plan," said Correctional Officer, John Christy, of the project due for completion on January 1.

"It will damage the Walla Walla community, destroy jobs downtown, and impact countless positions on the hill," he said.

Christy has helped organize a Community Task Force and joined fellow Teamsters in bargaining to help mitigate the impact of the project.

TOP OBJECTIVE: SAVE JOBS

"Our job on the Task Force and in bargaining with the State has been to protect the rights of fellow members and to save as many jobs as possible," he said.

Your Union bargaining team has met with the State twice over the issue. Bargaining is scheduled again for November 10.

Your Union bargaining team:

Eric Burt, Class. Counselor
John Christy, CO2
Eydie Dean, Business Rep.
Larry Hensley, SGT
Marina House, CO2
Matt Johnson, CO2
Joe Kuhn, Business Rep.
Scott Nettles, CO2

Steve Noirot, CO2
Analtha Moroffko, Business Rep.
Terry Paolino, SGT
Jeff Preas, CO2

OUR COMMUNITIES MAY BE AT RISK

On TVW's *Inside Olympia* with Austin Jenkins, Local 117 Secretary-Treasurer, Tracey A. Thompson, voiced concern about the long-term impact of the repurposing project at WSP and a similar proposal at MCC:

"If the changes endorsed by the Governor lead to a shortage of medium security beds in our State's prisons, staff safety and public safety will be at risk," she said.

Thompson argued that the Governor's endorsement of the plan is premature.

"Her decision to endorse changes at WSP comes before the legislature has had time to evaluate and prioritize all options for addressing the budget crisis. Most importantly, it comes before our State's correctional professionals have had a chance for their voices to be heard," she said.

LOST JOBS, A DEVASTATING IMPACT

Whatever the long-term risks associated with the project, one thing is clear: Changes at Old Main will have a devastating impact on the lives of at least 140 men and women at WSP.

"People have moved into our community, made a commitment to DOC, and now they're getting burned," Christy said.

For members directly impacted by the cuts, representatives from Walla Walla WorkSource are available to answer questions and help eligible members file for unemployment benefits. Talk to Business Representative Analtha Moroffko for more information.

OC USED TO BREAK UP A FIGHT AT CBCC

The new OC pepper spray rollout at the DOC got its first real test this October when it was deployed at CBCC to break up a fight.

Shop Steward Lawrence Adamire, an Officer at CBCC and a participant in the Statewide Security Advisory Committee, reported on the incident:

"There was a fight involving two inmates in chowhall 1. The inmates refused to follow a directive to disperse. The Sergeant on duty deployed OC and that promptly ended the fight without the staff having to go hands on," he said.

CORRECTIONS SAFETY BILL - ESB 5907

The use of pepper spray by corrections' staff comes as a direct result of your input to the NIC that helped shape prison safety legislation - ESB 5907.

Pepper spray is now available in secure locations at facilities where the OC program is being piloted.

At CBCC, for example, the Sergeant on duty during the mess hall incident retrieved an OC canister from the control booth.

Currently, Correctional Sergeants, Response and Movement Officers, and Specialty Team members are authorized to carry pepper spray on post.

STILL NO PEPPER STRAY AT SINGLE PERSON POSTS

The Teamsters have been pushing DOC to authorize officers at single-person posts to carry pepper spray, but so far the Department has resisted.

"The majority of staff is in favor of single-person posts carrying OC," Adamire said.

Corrections' staff who believe officers stationed at single-person posts should be authorized to carry OC should notify their institution's safety committee and speak about the issue with their State representatives immediately.

POLITICAL ACTION TEAM COORDINATES MASSIVE STATEWIDE GOTV EFFORT

More than a dozen Teamsters vie for political office

As the campaign season draws to a close, the Teamsters political action team made a monumental effort to get out the vote for labor-friendly candidates statewide.

Many of the candidates the team supported are Teamsters themselves, including candidates from the Department of Corrections.

In Monroe, Todd Fredrickson, a Sergeant at MCC, ran for Monroe City Council.

Fredrickson has served the public for 22 years as a corrections' professional and is a founding member of the Monroe Ethics Board.

In the November 8 General Election, Fredrickson is the presumptive winner, pulling in just over 50% of the vote.

Local 117 Political Action Coordinator, Lily Wilson-Codega, helped organize numerous phonebanking activities and three breakfast canvassing events in support of Fredrickson's campaign.

"Todd and his team canvassed, direct

mailed, and phonebanked every single registered voter in the city of Monroe," Wilson-Codega said.

The GOTV crew also took the Teamster truck on the road to Walla Walla, where 40 members at WSP turned out to participate in an election activity on October 28.



Members attend an election event at WSP

Members had a chance to meet and make calls on behalf of Teamsters-endorsed candidate, Mike Fredrickson (R) (no relation to Todd!), who ran for Walla Walla Port Commission on a platform aimed at preserving jobs at DOC.

The key to the GOTV effort is Local 117's 10 regional Political Action Committees that consist of hundreds of members statewide.

Through the work of the PACs, members made over 8,000 calls this campaign season, and participated in dozens of election activities and canvassing events.

For more information about the PACs, contact Lily Wilson-Codega at 206-441-4860 ext. 1262 or visit your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org.

CONCEALED WEAPONS CARRY UPDATE - ESHB 1041

Pressure leads to a change in policy

Ever since ESHB 1041 became law on July 22, enabling trained corrections professionals to carry concealed weapons off-duty, Teamsters have been demanding that members be authorized by the Department to carry their badge or Department I.D. so that they can identify themselves to law enforcement, if necessary.

Your Union's Director of Corrections & Law Enforcement, Jim Smith, had several communications with DOC Prisons Director Dan Pacholke requesting a change in policy to protect members' rights under the new law.

DOC ISSUES "FORM LETTER" MEMO

DOC ultimately issued a memo the day before the law was to take effect, stating that qualified individuals could request a "form letter" that members could carry as a means of identification.

Judging DOC's answer to the problem inadequate, your Union sent a letter to Attorney General Rob McKenna on July 29 stating concerns over the implementation of the bill and asking for clarification.

Your Union's political action team also began meeting with legislators over the issue and was prepared to fight for a change to the new law that would have authorized members to carry a legitimate form of identification.

FINALLY A CHANGE IN POLICY!

Finally, after months of wrangling, DOC responded to your Union's demands with a change in policy that now allows you to carry your Department I.D. off-duty to present to law enforcement officers while carrying a concealed firearm under the new law.

See revised DOC Policy 400.025, Section II.B., for the specific language.

If you have questions about the new policy, please contact your Business Representative.

OFFICER JAYME BIENDL MEMORIAL COIN

Orders must be received by Nov. 30



In honor of our fallen Sister, Officer Jayme Biendl, Washington State corrections professionals have created the Officer Jayme Biendl Memorial Coin.

The cost per coin is \$20. All proceeds from the coin donations go to Officer Biendl's family through the Jayme Biendl Benevolent Fund established by your Local Union.

To make an order, visit your Local Union's website at www.teamsters117.org. Orders must be received by Nov. 30, 2011. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Thank you for honoring Officer Biendl's memory. Jayme, we will never forget you!