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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Secretary Gary Westcott



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OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS REGARDING LOUISIANA LOCKUP

Baton Rouge, LA - Recent misleading reports about detainee treatment at Louisiana Lockup and Camp 57 are unacceptable and create a false narrative about the facility's operations. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) remains committed to transparency, accuracy, and our mission to protect public safety. This statement clarifies recent stories published without first verifying the facts.

ISSUES AND CLAIMS SURROUNDING HUNGER STRIKE:

According to Secretary Gary Westcott, "From September 20-22, 2025 the Department received three media requests (WDSU, WWL and the Associated Press) and has no record of any communications, whether email, phone call or text from the Advocate, which initially reported *"19 ICE detainees at the new Angola camp are on a hunger strike, advocacy group says"* in September 20, 2025 news story."

At that point in time, there were no hunger strikes reported at Louisiana Lockup.

However, on the evening of Sunday, September 21, 2025, it was brought to the attention of DPS&C that 17 ICE detainees had refused their meals. This action appears to have been sparked by false narratives in the media that put the idea in the detainees' heads.

To date, only three (3) detainees out of the 17 continue to refuse their meals.

ISSUES AND CLAIMS SURROUNDING PERSONAL HYGIENE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT:

These allegations are false. All detainees receive prompt medical attention upon intake and as needed throughout their detention. This includes initial health screenings and access to necessary medical care and medication for any ongoing health issues. Additionally, detainees were provided with hygiene items to maintain personal cleanliness and health. These items are also issued as needed.

ISSUES AND CLAIMS SURROUNDING PLUMBING: As of 8 a.m. Monday, September 22, members of the maintenance team at Louisiana State Penitentiary made rounds inside of Louisiana Lockup and found no issues surrounding plumbing.

At this time, DPS&C can confirm that one ICE detainee, did intentionally flood his cell on the morning of September 21, which was quickly remediated by unclogging the pipe chase in Independence 4 unit.