



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



JAIL GOES FROM “WORST TO FIRST”

Hamilton County, July 14, 2016 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports the Hamilton County Justice Center has gone from one of the worst rated jails in the State of Ohio to the best in the last 3 years during his tenure.

In the first few months of Sheriff Neil taking office a State Jail Inspector with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections conducted an annual audit of the Hamilton County Justice Center. Shortly after reviewing the state of the jail Sheriff Neil inherited, a report was released finding the Justice Center failed on 48 out of the 69 standards. The Inspector referred to the Justice Center as the worst jail in the entire state.

Fast forward to today. Sheriff Neil was recently provided the findings of the latest Annual State Jail Inspection with 115 Jail Standards were evaluated. The report states the Hamilton County Justice Center “**is now compliant with 100%** of the Essential Standards.” As jails are scrutinized more throughout the country the list of standards reviewed increased from 69 in 2013 to 115 in 2016, and the Sheriff’s Office is compliant with 100% despite being understaffed.

Sheriff Neil stated, “As Sheriff I’m extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the men and women working at the Justice Center who made this monumental improvement possible. To go from worst to first in a relatively short period of time shows their commitment to excellence and I commend them.”

You may recall when Sheriff Neil took office he immediately fulfilled a promise to close the “Revolving Door” at the Justice Center to make certain those arrested saw a judge and didn’t beat Officers back to the scene of the crime. The Sheriff has also recently partnered with the County Commissioners to conduct a separate Staffing Analysis / Audit and the findings will be presented at a Board of Commissioners meeting in the coming month. Finally Sheriff Neil and Major McGuffey continue to push for a detox and treatment floor at the Justice Center to help with the Heroin Epidemic, something the Commissioners are considering funding.

Sheriff Neil added, “We’ve come a long way on my watch, but our work is never done. We continue to look at ways we can improve all aspects of our operation, including the jail, the courts, and our patrols.”

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