

May 18, 2020

Stephanie Bragg, RN, BSN, MHA
Health Commissioner
Morrow County Health District
619 West Marion Rd, Suite B
Mount Gilead, OH 43338

Health Commissioner Bragg,

I write to express my concerns regarding conditions at Morrow County Correctional Facility during the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis. Many of those whom Immigration and Customs Enforcement is detaining in the facility are residents of the City of Columbus. Their treatment and health are a matter of basic human rights, dignity, and respect for life; and they have direct implications for the broader health of the Columbus community.

In particular, there are concerning details regarding conditions at this facility included in Judge Sarah D. Morrison's order in *Prieto v. Adducci* (Case No. 2:20-cv-2099). These include serious medical conditions left untreated, lack of social distancing protocols, lack of disinfectant available for cleaning, lack of available clean clothes, bedding, and towels, inadequate use of personal protective equipment, and inadequate access to medical professionals.

Without improvements, these conditions imperil incarcerated people, corrections officers, their families, the broader Morrow County community, and the City of Columbus. Given the ongoing nature of these problems and the number of individuals being held at this facility, I believe it is advisable to release as many inmates and ICE detainees as possible, while maintaining public safety, to alleviate these conditions and allow for proper safety protocols to be implemented at the facility.

Regardless of how these individuals came to be held in the Morrow County Correctional Facility, the County is now responsible for their welfare and must make every effort to protect them while they reside there. While I recognize that the release of individuals from this facility is not your decision as health commissioner, I urge you to work with Sheriff Hinton to ensure proper social distancing, free and accessible hygiene supplies, and robust medical care at the facility.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Brown
President Pro Tempore, Columbus City Council



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