



Department of  
Rehabilitation & Correction

**John R. Kasich**, Governor  
**Gary C. Mohr**, Director

11/18/2016

Sheriff Thomas Riggerbach  
Van Wert County Jail  
204 N. Washington Street  
Van Wert, OH 45891

RE: 2016 Annual Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff Thomas Riggerbach:

In accordance with Section 5120.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and Executive Order 92-03 of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Van Wert County Jail, a full service jail, was inspected on 09/28/2016. The inspection was restricted to assessing compliance with a group of standards, selected from the Standards for Jails in Ohio promulgated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The group of standards being inspected focused on Reception & Release, Classification, Security, Housing, Sanitation and Environmental Conditions, Communication, Visitation, Medical and Mental Health Services, Food Service, Recreation and Programming, Inmate Discipline, Administrative Segregation, Grievance, Staffing, and Staff Training. The inspection consisted of this Inspector receiving and/or reviewing requested documentation and/or materials, touring selected areas of the jail, and having discussions with various jail staff.

The total actual general housing capacity for the Van Wert County Jail is 78. On the date of the jail inspection, there were 32 inmates incarcerated in the Van Wert County Jail. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction recommended housing capacity for the jail is 82, which is based upon total available living space and other requirements. Officials should maintain prisoner counts within the Department's recommended capacity figure.

The Van Wert County Jail (Full Service Jail) is in compliance with 113 standards, 53 "Essential", and 60 "Important".

5120:1-8-01 (A)(10); -01 (A)(11); -01 (A)(13); -01 (A)(14); -01 (A)(15); -01 (A)(2); -01 (A)(5); -01 (A)(6); -01 (A)(8); -02 (A); -02 (B)(3); -02 (B)(5); -02 (B)(6); -03 (A)(1); -03 (A)(3); -03 (A)(4); -03 (A)(5); -03 (A)(6); -03 (A)(7); -03 (B)(1); -03 (B)(10)(a); -03 (B)(10)(b); -03 (B)(10)(c); -03 (B)(10)(d); -03 (B)(11)(a); -03 (B)(11)(b); -03 (B)(11)(c); -03 (B)(13); -03 (B)(14); -03 (B)(3); -03 (B)(4); -03 (B)(5); -03 (B)(6); -03 (B)(7); -03 (B)(9); -04 (A)(1); -04 (A)(2a); -04 (A)(2b); -04 (A)(3); -04 (K); -04 (L); -05 (A); -05 (B); -05 (C); -05 (D); -05 (E); -05 (F); -05 (H)(1); -05 (H)(2); -05 (H)(4); -05 (H)(5); -05 (H)(6); -05 (L); -05 (M); -05 (O); -05 (P); -05 (Q); -06 (A); -06 (D); -06 (F); -06 (H); -07 (B); -07 (C); -07 (F); -07 (G); -07 (J); -09 (A); -09 (AA); -09 (B); -09 (C); -09 (D); -09 (E); -09 (F); -09 (G); -09 (H); -09 (I); -09 (J); -09 (K); -09 (L); -09 (M); -09 (N); -09 (O); -09 (P); -09 (Q); -09 (R); -09 (S); -09 (T); -09 (U); -09 (V); -09 (W); -09 (X); -09 (Y); -09 (Z); -10 (A); -10 (B); -10 (C); -10 (E); -10 (F); -10 (G)(1); -10 (G)(2); -11 (C); -11 (D); -12 (A); -12 (D); -12 (E); -12 (I); -15 (A); -15 (C); -15 (F); -16 (B); -17 (A); -17 (B); -17 (C);

The Van Wert County Jail did not comply with 2 standards, 0 "Essential", and 2 "Important". This letter is intended to serve as a basis for developing plans of action for bringing the facility into compliance with the deficiencies noted during the inspection.

5120:1-8-04 (I) (Important) Noise levels shall not exceed seventy decibels in daytime and forty-five decibels at night.

Noise levels shall be documented using a sound level meter set to the A-scale (decibels.)

Comments: The night sound levels exceeded forty-five decibels (except for E35).

5120:1-8-05 (G): The jail shall maintain documentation that the following standards are met with regard to interior lighting: G3): (Important) Lighting in inmate sleeping areas shall be reducible to between two and four foot-candles, measured thirty inches above the floor.

Comments: The night light readings were all below two foot-candles in the sleeping areas.

The Van Wert County Jail is in compliance with 100% of the Essential Standards and at least 90% of the Important Standards meeting the requirements of a "Compliant Jail". It should be noted however; the jail did not comply with 2 of the Important Standards upon which the facility was inspected. This letter is intended to serve as a basis for developing plans of action for bringing the facility back into compliance with the remaining deficiencies noted during the inspection.

The Bureau of Adult Detention encourages the jail to correct the remaining deficiencies noted in the inspection report prior to the next annual jail inspection. Plan of Action forms are enclosed and can be submitted through the Ohio Jail Management System (OHJMS) at [www.OHJMS.Intelligrants.com](http://www.OHJMS.Intelligrants.com). Feel free to contact the Bureau if you need assistance or clarification in this effort. The Bureau remains available to discuss the aspects of this report and to provide reference materials or assistance as desired.

Sincerely,



---

Stephen Holland, State Jail Inspector  
Bureau of Adult Detention  
1580 St Rt 56  
London, Ohio 43140  
Phone: (614) 981-2040  
Email: [stephen.holland@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:stephen.holland@odrc.state.oh.us)