



## BERNALILLO COUNTY

COUNTY MANAGER'S DIVISION  
METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Ralph Fernandez, Chief of Corrections 

**DATE:** October 24, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center Restricted Housing Report

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On July 1, 2019, the State of New Mexico Legislature enacted the *Restricted Housing Act, H.B. 364, 2019 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (NM 2019)*. House Bill 364 places restrictions on the use of restricted housing and required the reporting of all inmates who are, or have been, confined in a cell due to disciplinary, administrative, classification or other action for twenty-two or more hours each day without daily, meaningful and sustained human interaction. All correctional facilities are required to produce a quarterly report that includes each inmate's age, gender, ethnicity, reason for placement, and the dates of placement and release from restricted housing. The report must be posted to the agencies public website.

During the months of July, August and September of 2019 the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) had an intake of 6,847 arrestees, 2.8% of which were placed in restricted housing due to one of the placement categories listed below. Attached to this memorandum you will find the required reporting data for each inmate placed in the Restricted Housing Unit (RHU) within MDC for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2019.

Below are the policy descriptions for the placement categories:

#### Disciplinary Sanctions

It is the policy of the Bernalillo County MDC to institute disciplinary action based on just cause. Inmates who receive disciplinary infractions are given the opportunity to go through a hearing process. Depending on the level of infraction, and if all proper documentation and evidence is provided, a decision is ruled through the Inmate Discipline Coordinator or designee.

#### Inmates Here For Court

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates who are from other counties, and are only temporarily at the MDC for court purposes, to be placed in restricted housing.

#### Inmate Is A Threat To Others Or Themselves

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates who are considered to be high risk and pose a serious threat to staff, other inmates, or themselves due to ; escape, assaultive behaviors, behavioral problems, and high profile cases to be housed in restricted housing and handled with extreme caution by staff at all times.

Inmate Is A Threat To Safety And Security Of The Facility (Security Threat Group)

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates who have a documented current or past gang affiliation in restricted housing in order to ensure the safety and security of the facility.

Pending Security Threat Group Interview

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates who may have a history or past gang affiliation in restricted housing pending a Security Threat Group assessment.

Pending Reclassification

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates in restricted housing who have received referrals to be reclassified by administrators, correctional staff, or program staff when warranted due to; incidents of sexual abuse, receipt of additional information, and adjustments to classification levels for programming reasons.

Protective Custody – Involuntary

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates in restricted housing in order to provide protection from other inmates for reasons of health or safety.

Protective Custody – Voluntary

It is the policy and practice of Bernalillo County MDC to house inmates who are requesting or requiring protection from other inmates for reasons of health or safety.