

DEAR READER

FEB. 2, 2020

HEY. I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL!

THIS PRISON HAS MADE SOME CHANGES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THAT HAVE TAKEN PRIVILEGES AWAY FROM DEATH ROW PRISONERS. EXAMPLE. 1 RULE IS THAT IF SOMEONE'S WING IS CALLED FOR YARD AND HE HAS A MEDICAL, LEGAL OR RELIGIOUS CALL-OUT AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE GIVEN A MAKE UP YARD IF HE CHOOSES TO GO TO THAT OTHER CALL-OUT. THE REASON IS THE FOLLOWING: CALL-OUTS THAT ARE MEDICAL, LEGAL OR RELIGIOUS ARE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. RIGHT TO MEDICAL CARE, RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL AND RIGHT TO PRACTICE RELIGION. AND AT THE SAME TIME IT IS A PRISONER'S RIGHT TO RECEIVE OUTSIDE RECREATION. THIS IS THE LAW IN FLORIDA. FOR PRISONERS IN LONG TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. DEATH ROW. I ASSUME IT'S FOR ALL THOUGH. I'VE ONLY STUDIED AS IT PERTAINS TO DEATH ROW TO TRY AND FIX THIS PROBLEM FOR US. NOW, THE LAW PROHIBITS FORCING PRISONERS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RIGHTS. SO MAKE-UP YARDS WERE GIVEN SO AS TO RESPECT EVERYONE'S RIGHTS. BUT EVER SINCE WARDEN MS. ANDREWS LEFT THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT DECLINE OF RIGHTS GIVEN TO DEATH ROW PRISONERS IN FLORIDA.

I, MYSELF HAVE MISSED MANY YARDS. SOMETIMES I DON'T GET OUT FOR A COUPLE WEEKS. BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN A MAKE UP YARD FOR OVER

6 MONTHS. THE LAW IN FLORIDA IS THAT DEATH ROW PRISONERS BE GIVEN A MINIMUM OF 6 HOURS OF OUTSIDE YARD EACH WEEK. BUT WE GET LESS THAN THAT AS THE NORM.

OUTSIDE RECREATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE ¹⁾ IT'S THE ONLY RECREATION WE GET. ²⁾ SUNSHINE & FRESH AIR AND THE ABILITY TO SOCIALIZED ASSIST, GREATLY, IN MAINTAINING PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH. ³⁾ THE OPEN SPACE TO RUN AROUND AND EXERCISE GREATLY ASSISTS IN PHYSICAL HEALTH.

THE PRISON IS IMPLEMENTING A NEW PRIVILEGE FOR US TO HAVE DAYROOM TIME. ONLY ONE HALFWAY IS GETTING THAT PRIVILEGE AT THE MOMENT AS IT'S THE PILOT PROGRAM. BUT WITH THE SPEED OF PROGRESS, THE REST OF DEATH ROW WILL BE INCLUDED IN MAYBE A YEARS TIME. MAYBE LONGER. THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR US. BUT IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR OUTSIDE YARD TIME.

THERE'S A CATCH 22 TO THIS. EVER SINCE THIS DAYROOM PRIVILEGE HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS, NEW RULES HAVE BEEN CREATED TO MAKE LIFE HARDER ON US. LIKE NOW, AT 9:30 PM, WHEN WE'RE SETTLED DOWN TO GO TO SLEEP OR RELAXED FOR IT WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF BED, GET DRESSED IN ORANGE PANTS & T-SHIRT, TURN ON THE LIGHT, STAND AT OUR DOOR AND SHOW OUR I.D. CARD AND SOUND OFF OUR INMATE NUMBER FOR THE GUARD. IT'S A RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF MOVEMENT WHEN ALL THEY NEED FOR HEADCOUNT IS TO KNOW THAT WE'RE ALIVE AND WE'RE IN

OUR CORRECT CELL. FOR THAT, WE HAVE ALWAYS JUST
CLICKED ON OUR LIGHT AND STATED OUR # & SHOWN
OUR FACE. OUR I.D. STAYS CLIPPED TO THE T.V.
STAND (WHICH IS ONLY ABOUT 12 INCHES FROM THE
BARS... THEIR FACE) SO THEY CAN VISUALLY VERIFY
IT IS US. THAT'S ALL THAT'S NEEDED. ANOTHER EXAMPLE
IS NOW ON THURSDAYS, WHEN WE SEND IN OUR SHEETS
TO BE WASHED, WE HAVE TO ROLL UP OUR MATTRESS IN
AN "S" FOR INSPECTION OR IF WE LEAVE OUR CELL.
IT CAUSES THE FILLING TO BUNCH UP INSIDE. IT
MAKES HARD KNOTS THAT FEELS LIKE LARGE ROCKS IN
IT AND, IN MINE, ONE GOES ACROSS MY WHOLE
MATTRESS. YEAH, IT'S VERY UNCOMFORTABLE AND I
DON'T SLEEP WELL AT ALL. BUT, AS I INFERED EARLIER,
RESPECT FOR OUR RIGHTS HAVE DECLINED. THE ORDER FOR
US GETTING DAYROOM CAME FROM A JUDGE. SO, DO TRUST,
WITHOUT THAT ORDER WE WOULD NOT BE GETTING IT.

I'VE FILED A GRIEVANCE ON THE MAISE UP YARD ISSUE
CITING CASE LAW AND REQUESTING RELIEF. YOU'LL SEE
WHAT HAPPENS. I'VE HAD PREVIOUS GRIEVANCES
APPROVED BUT NO RELIEF WAS EVER GIVEN.....

I ALSO RECENTLY READ A MEMO FROM THE
SECRETARY MARK INCH. IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS
THE RIGHT PLAN & MIND FOR FIXING THE PROBLEM
IN FLORIDA'S D.O.C. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT
REHABILITATING PRISONERS IS HOW YOU HELP
"EVERYONE." HE HAS THE EXPERIENCE TO ACCOMPLISH

IS TOO. LET'S HOPE HE DOES. NOW AS TO HOW HE FEELS ABOUT US ON DEATH ROW... I DON'T KNOW. HE MAY FEEL WE DESERVE TO STRUGGLE UNTIL OUR SENTENCE OF DEATH IS CARRIED OUT. LIKE, IT SEEMS, MY PRISON'S CURRENT ADMINISTRATION FEELS. OR DOES HE FEEL OUR SENTENCE IS TO BE EXECUTED AND UNTIL THAT TIME COMES WE'LL BE TREATED HUMANELY AND WITH DIGNITY...? ONLY TIME WILL TELL. BUT IF HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BEST IN MIND FOR US ON THE ROW... AT LEAST HE DOES FOR THE REST OF THE PRISONERS IN FLORIDA.

WELL, MY FRIEND, I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH OF YOUR TIME. I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!

UNTIL NEXT TIME.

YOURS TRULY

P.S. FOR THE RECORD, EARLIER

DOUG

I STATED HOW MY PRISON'S CURRENT ADMINISTRATION FEELS. NOT ALL OF THEM FEEL THIS WAY. BUT ENOUGH TO MAKE THE RULES CHANGE DO.