



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW - RFK
Washington, DC 20530*

August 20, 2024

The Honorable William Lee
Governor's Office
State Capitol, 1st Floor
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Investigation of Trousdale Turner Correctional Center

Dear Governor Lee:

I write to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is commencing an investigation of conditions in the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center (TTCC), managed by CoreCivic on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC). The Department will conduct this investigation under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997.

During this investigation, the Department will determine whether Tennessee engages in a pattern or practice of violating the rights of individuals held at TTCC that are protected by the United States Constitution. Specifically, we will investigate whether Tennessee provides individuals at TTCC reasonable protection from violence, including physical and sexual assault and abuse.

We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. During the investigation, we will consider all relevant information, including the efforts Tennessee has taken to ensure compliance with the Constitution. We encourage the State to cooperate with our investigation and assure you that we will seek to minimize any potential disruption our investigation may have on TTCC or TDOC operations.

If we ultimately determine that there are no systemic violations, we will notify you that we are closing the investigation. If we determine that there are systemic violations, we will inform you of our findings and attempt to work with the State to remedy those violations. In our many years of civil rights enforcement, the good faith efforts of jurisdictions to work with us have routinely enabled us to resolve our claims without resorting to contested litigation.

Our Special Litigation Section and attorneys from the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee will be handling this investigation. They will contact your office to discuss the next steps. Steven H. Rosenbaum, the Chief of the Special Litigation Section, may be reached at (202) 616-3244.

Sincerely,



Kristen Clarke
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Jonathan Skrmetti
Attorney General
Tennessee

Erin Merrick
Chief Legal Counsel
Governor's Office

Frank Strada
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Correction

Vince Vantrell
Warden
Trousdale Turner Correctional Center