

Name: Sherine Bailey
Title: Correction Officer/Union Ldr
Organization or Agency: Council 4 Corrections Local 391
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

Testimony to the Corrections Advisory Committee
January 11, 2024

Good afternoon all

My name is Sherine Bailey and I have been employed with the Department of Corrections for 15 years and currently am an executive board member of AFSCME Local 391 correctional union.

I urge you to reject Barbara Fair as a candidate for the position of Corrections Ombudsman.

Ms. Fair repeatedly belittled corrections staff for their lack of education yesterday at a news conference. That is a shame. Over the years I strived to become a well rounded officer who advocates for the safety and improvement of inmates's and staff's lives. I am currently a licensed practical nurse and have saved a few lives in my career at the Department. My educational skills have provided mental health assessments and awareness which is beneficial to the various inmate populations.

I have used this skills to assist inmates and staff. Therefore I feel as though the remarks are degrading to myself and all of the staff members who have outside expertise and who come from humble backgrounds Ms. Fair made multiple statements which concerns the staff. We believe that she will create unsafe working conditions while trying to advocate for the inmates. She has supported policies that would make facilities far more dangerous. For example, she wanted to prevent handcuffing without a Captain. This says that she is unaware of the hazardous duties of Corrections.

Fair had many personal biases which will affect her abilities to do what the position of Ombudsman entails. An Ombudsman is supposed to be neutral and unbiased.

For these reasons I am asking the Committee to reconsider Ms. Barbara Fair as a candidate for Ombudsman.