

TO: Professors Andrea Armstrong and Nishi Kumar
FROM: Lale Brown
RE: “Better Know a Jail” Memo
DATE: November 29, 2022

Beauregard Parish Jail

Introduction

Beauregard Parish encompasses 1,157.48 square miles and has a population of 36,584.¹ The Parish was created in 1912², and the parish seat is DeRidder.³ The Beauregard Parish Jail was established in 1914 under Sheriff W.A. Martine. The original gothic-style jail is referred to as the “hanging jail.”⁴ The jail was in operation until 1984 when a new jail was opened on what is now Bolivar Bishop Drive.⁵ The Beauregard Parish Policy Jury provides the Sheriff’s Office with the jail facilities, which are under the administration of Warden Freddie Doyle and Assistant Warden Luke Gaspard.⁶

Jail Characteristics

The Beauregard Parish Jail is a medium-security facility located at 412 Bolivar Bishop Drive in DeRidder, Louisiana.⁷ The jail operates with 161 beds and houses pre-trial inmates and a limited number of adjudicated offenders.⁸ The jail also houses individuals in the custody of DeRidder Police Detention and the Louisiana Department of Corrections.

As of Friday, November 18, 2022, at 10:45 AM (CST), the Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office inmate roster indicated that the jail housed 194 inmates.⁹ Of those 194 inmates, 144 of them were male. Forty-two of them were black, and two individuals’ race is unknown. 59 male inmates ranged from 18-34 years of age, 68 males between the ages of 35-54, and 17 were 55 years or older. Forty-four inmates were female. Forty-one of those females were white, and 4 of them were black. Eighteen ranged from 18-34, 22 were between the ages of 34-54, and 4 were aged 55 or older. Most of the people in custody at this facility are held short-term. Five people have been in custody at the Beauregard Parish Jail since 2020.

According to the Beauregard Parish Police Jury 2019 Statement of Revenues and

¹ *QuickFacts: Beauregard Parish, Louisiana*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/beauregardparishlouisiana,LA,US/PST045221> (last visited Nov. 11, 2022).

² BEAUREGARD PAR. CLERK CT., <https://www.beauregardclerk.org/> (last visited Nov. 11, 2022).

³ *Beauregard Parish Profile*, <https://www.louisiana.gov/local-louisiana/beauregard-parish> (last visited Nov. 11, 2022).

⁴ *History of Beauregard Parish Correctional Facility*, BEAUREGARD PAR. SHERIFF’S OFF., <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/corrections#:~:text=HISTORY%20OF%20BEAUREGARD%20PARISH%20CORRECTIONAL,killing%20a%20taxi%20cab%20driver> (last visited Nov. 11, 2022).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Inmate Roster*, BEAUREGARD PAR. SHERIFF’S OFF., <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/roster.php> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

Expenditures, it costs \$904,598 to operate the jail complex.¹⁰ \$400,000 of that amount is for housing inmates and juveniles.¹¹ The Police Jury also budgeted \$90,000 for medical and dental treatment, \$7,800 for jail nursing services, \$2,000 for emergency medical care, and \$3,000 for ambulance service.¹²

As of November 2022, inmates have been moved from the Beauregard Parish Jail facility to Leesville Jail while the facility is under construction.¹³ Visitation is currently unavailable at the Leesville City Jail.

In early January 2022, officials blamed faulty door mechanisms when one man escaped his cell by opening its lock and stabbed another inmate multiple times with a pair of scissors.¹⁴ As of March 2022, renovations were underway at the Beauregard Parish Jail to address the health and safety issues at the facility.¹⁵ The repairs include resolving ongoing lighting, electrical, plumbing, and security issues.¹⁶ Hurricane Laura exacerbated these ongoing issues and resulted in the incarcerated population being moved for several months while the construction takes place.¹⁷ The officials at Leesville City Jail offered to lease its facility to the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office for \$1,000 per month.¹⁸ The construction is funded by \$680,000 through federal grants.¹⁹ Officials hope to complete renovations by the summer of 2022.²⁰

Public Records Request and Inmate Mortality

According to the data provided, deaths at the facility are uncommon. The two in-custody deaths reported show that medical issues are the most common cause of death. In both cases, the men had pre-existing conditions.

Based on CJ-9s provided by Beauregard Parish Jail from 2014 to 2019, one man died while in the custody of the Beauregard Parish Jail. On the morning of May 20, 2014, 27-year-old David Wayne Drodgy Jr., of Longville, Louisiana, was found unresponsive in his bed.²¹ According to the CJ-9, his cause of death was an enlarged heart.²² At the time of his death,

¹⁰ *Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (2019)*, BEAUREGARD PARISH POLICE JURY, [HTTPS://WWW.INCARCERATIONTRANSPARENCY.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/05/BEAUREGARD-PARISH-BUDGET-2019.PDF](https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BEAUREGARD-PARISH-BUDGET-2019.PDF) (last visited Nov. 19, 2022).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Johnathan Manning, *Inmates moved out of Beauregard Jail while facility under construction*, KPLC-TV (Jan. 25, 2022, 6:22 PM) <https://www.kplctv.com/2022/01/26/inmates-moved-out-beauregard-jail-while-facility-under-construction/>.

¹⁴ Jade Moreau, *Beauregard jail construction underway*, KPLC-TV (Mar. 3, 2022, 9:30 PM), <https://www.kplctv.com/2022/03/04/beauregard-jail-construction-underway/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Pamela Sleezer, *Beauregard considers moving inmates while repairs made to jail*, BEAUREGARD NEWS (Jan. 27, 2022, 12:11 PM), <https://www.beauregardnews.com/news-main/beauregard-considers-moving-inmates-while-repairs-made-to-jail/>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Moreau, *supra* note 43.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Michael Cooper, *Beauregard Parish inmate found dead in cell*, KPLC-TV (May 20, 2014, 4:13 PM) <https://www.kplctv.com/story/25565605/beauregard-parish-inmate-dies/>.

²² Form CJ-9A, Deaths in Custody – 2014.

Droddy was serving a five-year sentence for simple arson.²³ The CJ-9 indicates that Droddy had a pre-existing condition of which he was unaware.²⁴ Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Joe Toler indicated that no foul play was suspected.²⁵

The facility also provided data points for another man's death in 2021.²⁶ On July 22, 2021, 67-year-old Patrick Lockner died after experiencing septic shock and pneumonia.²⁷ The facility indicated that Mr. Lockner had a pre-existing condition.²⁸ After recovering from septic shock, he did not regain consciousness.²⁹ His family was contacted and decided to extubate and allow natural death.³⁰ Mr. Lockner was a pre-trial detainee and died after being in custody for less than two months.³¹

Jail Leadership

Sheriff Mark Herford is the Beauregard Parish Sheriff.³² He is in his first term and began his tenure in 2020.³³ In the November 2019 election, Sheriff Herford received 56.86% of the votes against John L. Gott.³⁴ Previously, Sheriff Herford was a law enforcement professional in the Sheriff's Department Parish for 27 years, including Corrections, Patrol, Investigations, Narcotics, SWAT, and Administration.³⁵ For 15 of those years, Sheriff Herford served as the Chief Detective for the Sheriff's Office.³⁶ He attended Northwestern State University and McNeese State University.³⁷ He also participated at the 212th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.³⁸

In April 2020, Warden Freddie Doyle became warden at the Beauregard Parish Jail after being selected by then-Sheriff-elect Mark Herford.³⁹ Warden Doyle was born and raised in Beauregard Parish.⁴⁰ Before becoming the warden at the facility, he worked at the Allen Correctional Center in Kinder, Louisiana.⁴¹ He has also worked at the Beauregard Parish

²³ Cooper, *supra* note 16.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Cooper, *supra* note 16.

²⁶ *See generally Record of Death: Patrick Lockner*, INCARCERATION TRANSPARENCY, <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Lockner-Patrick-Beauregard-2021-Record-of-Death.pdf> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

³² BEAUREGARD PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE, <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

³³ *Beauregard Parish*, LOUISIANA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION, <https://www.lsa.org/beauregard-parish> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

³⁴ *Beauregard Parish Official Election Results: 11/16/2019*, LOUISIANA SECRETARY OF STATE, <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/2019-11-16/resultsRace/06> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

³⁵ *Meet Mark Herford*, <https://www.herfordforsheriff.com/meet-mark> (last visited Nov. 18, 2020).

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Doyle experiences unique perspective as Beauregard Parish Jail warden*, AM. PRESS (Jul. 20, 2021, 12:26 AM), <https://www.americanpress.com/2021/07/20/doyle-experiences-unique-perspective-as-beauregard-parish-jail-warden/>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

Sheriff's Office, where he served as S.W.A.T. Commander and as the Courthouse Security Supervisor and Bailiff for Judge Martha Ann O'Neal.⁴² He remains active on the Underwater Search and Recovery Team and the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Task Force.⁴³

Oversight

The Louisiana Department of Corrections does not have oversight of the Beauregard Parish Jail because it is a local jail. In December 2020, the Bureau of Justice Statistics completed its Mortality in Correctional Institutions (MCI) collection of deaths during the 2019 calendar year. It formally closed the MCI collection on March 31, 2021.⁴⁴ As of 2020, information regarding deaths in custody is submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance. As a result, facilities no longer use Form CJ-9 for in-custody death information after the calendar year 2019. While Louisiana agencies have no duty to create a *new* record in response to a public records request, I successfully obtained in-custody death information by requesting “*access to any existing forms subject to public records disclosure, which contain data points concerning inmate deaths.*”

The Beauregard Parish Jail is not listed as an American Correctional Association-accredited facility, and I could not locate any information regarding any other accreditation. Nor has the facility been subject to any audits whose results are readily available. Moreover, there have not been any judicial orders or consent decrees over the facility within the past five years.

Complaints

In October 2019, an incarcerated woman filed a complaint against then-Sheriff Ricky Moses and then-Warden Jeannie Irvine, among others, in federal district court after being denied medical treatment and sexually assaulted by a sheriff's deputy.⁴⁵ In her complaint, she alleged that while incarcerated, she sought medical treatment for a high fever and debilitating pain, for which jail officials repeatedly denied treatment for eight days.⁴⁶ Eventually, the woman was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with a severe kidney infection.⁴⁷ During her hospital stay, she was raped by the sheriff's deputy in charge of guarding her.⁴⁸ The deputy confessed to sexual assault and was subsequently terminated and arrested.⁴⁹

In 2022, a pretrial detainee filed a *pro se* complaint against the jail.⁵⁰ The man alleged that he was denied medical treatment when he contracted COVID-19 and for injuries sustained because of an alleged assault by prison officials.⁵¹ The plaintiff complained that he could not be

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Mortality in Correctional Institutions (MCI) (Formerly Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP))*, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/mortality-correctional-institutions-mci-formerly-deaths-custody-reporting-program> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

⁴⁵ *Farmer v. Bailey*, 2:19-cv-01384-JDC-KK (W.D. La. Oct. 24, 2019).

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁴⁷ *Id.* at 4.

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ Steve W. Stewart, *Beauregard Parish deputy charged with raping an inmate, fired same day*, KJAS.COM (June 3, 2019), https://www.kjas.com/news/local_news/article_30dca442-8622-11e9-9e9e-fb41ceb8e908.html.

⁵⁰ *LaCour v. Jail of Beauregard Par.*, 2:21-cv-03195 (W.D. La. Jul. 26, 2022).

⁵¹ *Id.*

tested for COVID because the facility charged \$125 for a visit to the nurse practitioner.⁵² The court held that the plaintiff did not have a constitutional right to free medical care.⁵³ The complainant also alleged that after being assaulted by several prison officials, his elbow was injured, and the facility refused to perform an MRI because it could not afford it.⁵⁴ The court reasoned that the plaintiff's disagreement with his medical treatment was insufficient to state a claim under the Eighth Amendment.⁵⁵ He also alleged that deputies used racist terms in referring to black men and mocked him when he asked for grievance forms.⁵⁶ The court reasoned that the Fifth Circuit does not recognize verbal abuse by a correctional officer as an Eighth Amendment violation.⁵⁷

In 2021, two deputies were terminated in connection to spraying an inmate with a chemical agent and tasing another without cause.⁵⁸ One of the deputies was formally charged with three counts of simple battery.⁵⁹ Sheriff Herford mandated that department staff attend a refresher course on the use of force.⁶⁰

Transparency

The Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office website provides basic information on the jail, including contact information and a continuously updated inmate roster. The website also provides minutes from public meetings. The minutes generally relate to budgeting without offering specific details. The minutes do not reflect information concerning jail operations specifically. I found information concerning the jail primarily through news reports, public records requests, and contacting the facility directly.

After contacting the Sheriff's Office, I was directed to contact Chief Criminal Deputy Jared Morton for public records concerning inmates at the Beauregard Parish Jail.⁶¹ The website does not list his email, but I obtained this information by calling the jail and being transferred to his direct line. Records Deputy Brittany Smart at the Beauregard Sheriff's Office is also a good point of contact for submitting a public records request. However, her contact information is not listed on the website. Her information may be obtained by contacting the Sheriff's Office by phone. The Beauregard Parish Police Jury website also has a Public Records Request form on the homepage under "Quick Links."⁶² However, the form does not specify the point of contact for submitting the request.

⁵² *Id.* at 4.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 3.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 4.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ Davon Cole & Jennifer Lott, *Ex-Beauregard deputy arrested for three counts of simple battery*, KPLC-TV (Apr. 9, 2021, 9:24 PM), <https://www.kplctv.com/2021/04/09/ex-beauregard-deputy-arrested-three-counts-simple-battery/>.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ *See generally Administration*, BEAUREGARD PAR. SHERIFF'S OFF., <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/administration> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022).

⁶² BEAUREGARD PAR. POLICE JURY, <https://beauparish.org/index.htm> (last visited Nov. 18, 2022)

