

## MEMORANDUM

To: Erica Navalance, Nishi Kumar  
From: Lane Davis  
Date: December 29, 2024  
Re: B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center

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### **Background**

The B.B. “Sixty” Rayburn Correctional Center (hereinafter “Rayburn”) is a state-run prison for adult male felons. Rayburn is located in Angie, Louisiana. Rayburn serves as the prison for Washington Parish and operates under the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Currently, the Rayburn’s warden is Travis Day.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Day started his tenure as warden on June 14, 2021.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Day began his career in the Louisiana Department of Corrections in 1999 and worked his way up the chain of command.<sup>3</sup> The phone number for Rayburn is 985-681-6300.<sup>4</sup>

### **Number of Deaths since 2014**

From 2015 to 2024, there have been thirty reported deaths at Rayburn.<sup>5</sup> According to the Incarceration Transparency website, all of the deaths, except for five, were attributed to medical issues.<sup>6</sup> Of the five deaths that were not medical-related, two deaths were attributed to suicide, two deaths were attributed to violence, and one death was attributed to an accident.<sup>7</sup> The deceased inmates ranged in age from 29 to 81.<sup>8</sup> The respective ages of the deceased inmates were as follows: 55, 59, 81, 53, 60, 66, 56, 59, 57, 71, 59, 54, 56, 47, 42, 71, 59, 56, 70, 59, 60, 65, 69, 34, 52, 50, 38, 29, 62, and 62.<sup>9</sup> As the ages indicate, the people dying at Rayburn are advanced in age. Seventeen of the deceased inmates were white, and thirteen were black.<sup>10</sup>

### **Jail Characteristics**

The maximum capacity of Rayburn is 1,376.<sup>11</sup> As of June 7, 2021, Rayburn housed 1,170 adult male inmates and had 274 full-time staff members and 10 part-time staff members.<sup>12</sup> The facility

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<sup>1</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>.

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/LaDeptofCorrections/posts/congratulations-to-warden-travis-daysecretary-jimmy-le-blancs-message-it-is-often/4124330050969549/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/la-prison-deaths/washington/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

sits on land spanning 1,025 acres.<sup>13</sup> Housing is divided into four general population units and one segregation unit.<sup>14</sup> The units are identified as Sun, Wind, Rain, Snow, and Sleet.<sup>15</sup>

Rayburn is located at 27268 Highway 21 North, Angie, LA 70426.<sup>16</sup> As of 2023, Angie has a population of 251.<sup>17</sup> The facility's official website is <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>.<sup>18</sup> Rayburn houses adult male inmates ranging from 19 to 78 years old.<sup>19</sup>

The Louisiana Department of Corrections oversees the annual budget review for Rayburn. The 2023-2024 final budget was \$39,243,817.<sup>20</sup> The 2024-2025 Act 4 as of July 1, 2024, was \$52,019,996.<sup>21</sup> The total cost per offender per day was \$108.46.<sup>22</sup> The webpage, which mentions these statistics, states that there are 293 staff members at Rayburn from 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.<sup>23</sup>

### **Evidence of Oversight**

Rayburn is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA).<sup>24</sup> Rayburn received an audit score of 99.1%, and the audit date was May 2023.<sup>25</sup> The final score is still to be determined.<sup>26</sup> The panel hearing date was scheduled for August 2023.<sup>27</sup> The next anticipated audit date is Spring 2026.<sup>28</sup>

A Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report was completed by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections on January 19, 2022.<sup>29</sup> The audit's summary of findings indicates that the facility met 45 standards, with no standards unmet or exceeded.<sup>30</sup> There have been no hearings specifically regarding the operations of the facility by the Parish or City Council, nor have there been any judicial orders or consent decrees issued against Rayburn in the past five years.

### **Evidence of Transparency**

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html/>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/b-b-rayburn-correctional-center/>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/0d-Budget-Human-Resources-PE-Website.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ACA-Scores-2024.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rayburn-Correctional-Center-Audit-Report-2022.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

There have been no public briefings on Rayburn operations. The facility's website provides information on how someone can locate an inmate.<sup>31</sup> The website states, "Family and friends of people assigned to the custody of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections can locate the person by searching on the Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System (LAVRNS)."<sup>32</sup> The website makes it "easy to search by location, name, and ID/case number."<sup>33</sup>

One advocacy group called "Michael Young Prison Solidarity" was formed in support of inmate Michael Young, who claims to have endured unconstitutional and unjust treatment since his incarceration at Rayburn began in 2014.<sup>34</sup> Mr. Young claims to have been sexually assaulted by Sgt. Jules Herbert.<sup>35</sup> Sgt. Herbert allegedly made Mr. Young the target of violence from other prisoners, too, according to Mr. Young.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, Mr. Young claims to have received inadequate mental healthcare and has been denied access to books and legal resources.<sup>37</sup> Mr. Young filed a grievance under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in 2015, claiming retaliation by guards for his complaint.<sup>38</sup>

Rayburn officials rejected my public records request. In fact, Rachel Escobar, a custodian of records for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, stated the following in an email to me in late September:

"The DPS&C has thoroughly reviewed your request, our records, the relevant federal laws, available jurisprudence, and state law, including the Public Records Law, specifically R.S. 44:7, and the statute on confidentiality of offender information, R.S. 15:574.12. It has been determined that the records requested are confidential and are not subject to release. Therefore, your request for information/records related to deaths in custody is denied."

### **Notable Cases or Complaints on Prison/Jail Conditions in Last Five Years**

In May 2020, the Supreme Court rejected a case that arose from prison conditions at Rayburn.<sup>39</sup> The case is known as *Marlowe v. Leblanc*.<sup>40</sup> The inmate, Christopher Marlowe, complained that Rayburn did not do enough to protect him from contracting COVID-19.<sup>41</sup> Marlowe suffered from diabetes, and his status as a diabetic put him at increased risk of suffering a complication from COVID-19.<sup>42</sup> In essence, the inmate wanted Rayburn to enact precautionary measures to protect him. Ultimately, the Supreme Court rejected Marlowe's appeal.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> <https://doc.louisiana.gov/imprisoned-person-programs-resources/offender-information/>.

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> <https://supportmikeyoung.wordpress.com/letter-to-warden-tanner/>.

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/29/politics/supreme-court-louisiana-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>40</sup> <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-5th-circuit/2062136.html>.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/29/politics/supreme-court-louisiana-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.*

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*

