

Colonel David M. Parish  
Dept. of Detention Services  
Office of David Gee, Sheriff  
HCSO PO Box 3371  
Tampa, FL 33601

HILL COUNTY DETENTION CENTER  
2008 MAR -2 PM 12:45  
CLERK OF COURT

08-7385 or

Colonel Parish,

I am currently detained at Orient Rd jail and held w/o bond. I am having continual issues with the administration of this facility who continually place me in close mgmt. confinement under the guise of "admin. confinement." I have been told a myriad of reasons as to why, many of which conflict w/each other. My attempts to ask, rather, to ask how to go about inquiring the correct procedure or method to address my concerns is met with hostility and misinterpreted as an attempt to circumvent policies or request special treatment.

Col. Parish, I am at a loss. I have never felt such anonymity from adults in my life. I am always willing to sit down and express my concerns, but am now told in no uncertain terms to "shut up." My experiences here w/ the staff has ranged from exceptional to wretched. I feel as though any continued efforts to request, explain, or advocate for myself will only be twisted and misinterpreted. Presently, I have concerns about the security of my mail, most importantly, my legal mail and this back and forth placement in/out of confinement. I am told this is a classification issue? Then I was under investigation

appropriate people and am then allowed back into population.) I'm beginning to feel restrictions are put on me out of annoyance or possible discrimination b/c of the nature of my charges. During these moves, I'm separated from a significant amount of my property including items recently purchased from jail canteen. I feel in complete disarray. Moreover, I do not know who to go to about these issues.

I want to be very clear that I'm not making allegations. I am simply asking for answers, guidance, or help. I am aware of the chain of command in the pod. I find myself speaking w/ individuals of rank about simple matters that now seem so trumped up. I have never had a bad experience w/ other inmates in general population b/c of my charges or "high profile status". I have never felt my safety was in danger in population from inmates. On the contrary, I feel as though my charges or perhaps the media attention my case receives causes some staff to prefer to not deal with me. Many times when I ask a question (which is what adults do when they don't know something), I'm quickly dismissed with a, "I don't want to be called on the stand", or similar type comment. I'm confused as to how that is appropriate to the most basic procedural question or why there is a hesitancy for certain individuals to perform basic functions of their job and pass me along to their supervisor, and so on.

3 concerns and requests. If there is something I should be doing, please tell me or show me. I am writing b/c I do feel stuck, in so many ways. I'm wondering if you have an inmate advocate or your office has a liaison that could assist me? For whatever reason, perhaps a fresh perspective, a neutral entity, and someone who can impartially make suggestions would be good, instead of feeling that in all levels here at Orient Road Jail, my "reputation precedes me", or at least, certain perceptions do.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns with regards to this matter. I look forward to your response and guidance.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ragusa

FEB. 26, 2009

Stephanie Ragusa

#2026786

1201 Orient Rd.

Tampa, FL 33619

cc:

Robert Herce, Esq.

Chief Judge Manuel Menedez

Sarina Fazan, ABC Action News

(enclosed)

Following the completion of this form at approx. 5:10 pm, Dep. Abraham pulled up Echlin to administer an DDH hearing during my meal. I was not given,

a) a full written statement by fact finders (Dep. Davis) as to the evidence relied on and the reasons for the disciplinary action to be taken

b) I was not given the opportunity to call witnesses or present documentary evidence

c) I asked to speak w/ Det. Button prior to this hearing. Dep. Davis who conducted the investigation said she'll put her reputation on it that she will not <sup>sign</sup> if it's possible, schedule permitting, to meet w/ me.

d) I made it clear that w/o such opportunities listed on III, 1, 2 of the inmate disciplinary report (HCDP 5703) that I am concerned that this isn't a "hearing", so much as an advisement that a sentence has been previously decided w/o my opportunity to present my defense.

e) Dep. Abraham advised that she would bring back inmate request forms to speak w/ various administration (as per appeal process, I suppose b/c nothing was explained to me) It is 5:47 pm and she has not returned & I have buzzed the tower once already & taken names of neighboring inmates who witnessed this.

f) I have not signed to nor contributed to anything resembling a "hearing" nor have I been given

5 Colonel Parish, this is exactly what I am talking about. I am sitting at the floor of my cell ready & willing to follow the jail's procedures including this hearing. But I am not given the slightest chance to speak. I may misunderstand, but from the handbook, it seems that the DPH is the forum which requires both the inmate and jail authorities. I also feel that the integrity of any such "hearing" is completely undermined when the Disciplinary Hearing Officer has no regard for the presentation of facts and arrives w/ a verdict already pre-determined. Again, I apologize for reaching out directly to your office, but I cannot help but feel purposely silenced and that there is an overwhelming amount of bias at this facility against me.

Please, I am sincerely seeking advice, mediation, or intervention. Thank you,

Stephanie Ragusa

@ 5:55pm 2/26/09

- buzzed tower upon completion and asked for a notation to be made that I am awaiting my DPH hearing, or what remains or is of it. 6pm 2/26/09
- 6:05pm asked Dep Yingling if Dep. Abraham planned on returning
- I have not been able to call my atty all week b/c my recs are not scheduled during normal business hours. My phone card has been taken from me and I cannot call my atty on his cell/pc.

• 6:45pm Dep Jangby returned w/ 3 inmate request forms.