

[REDACTED]  
MCI-Norfolk  
P.O. Box 43  
Norfolk, MA 02056-0043

18 May 2020

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RE: Expenditures from Inmate Food Account

[REDACTED]

I write to ask: is it permissible for food items to be purchased by way of the Inmate Food Account if these items are not being served to inmates, but are consumed by staff?

I have had the opportunity to review invoices from the Inmate Food Account, specifically from U.S. Foods("USF") and New England Foods("NEF") from the period of 15 February thru 27 April.

In my review I noted numerous purchases from these accounts which are not being served to the inmate population. For example: Pork Bacon(USF invoice #010083(3/24/20 2 cases, \$84.24); Italian sausages(USF invoice #0368381(4/9/20) 2 cases \$53.92); Beef Tenderloin Tips(NEF invoices #0014424 & # #0014367(4/10/20 & 4/14/20) 2 cases @ \$99.00 per case). Actually between 3/10/20 thru 4/30/20 there were 12 such expenditures for gourmet meats totaling \$1,076.56; none of which were served to inmates.

Also, there was \$422.50 spent on bottled water and \$327.68 spent on Gatorade. And, miscellaneous items such as French Vanilla Creamer, assorted Kelloggs Cereals(Frosted Flakes, Lucky Charms, Super Sugar Smacks, etc.), mozzarella pizza cheeses . . . 11 such expenditures totaling \$1,417.09. Between the meats, water, Gatorade, and the miscellaneous items I was able to identify \$3,243.83 taken from the Inmate Food Budget that was not served to inmates(see attached).

In addition \$3,823.65 was spent from the Inmate Food Account on Pizza. Though the inmate population was only served pizza once, and it was a homemade style french bread pizza, a large bulk of these expenditures were for 5", 8", and 16" round pizzas.

There is a Staff/Culinary(STF/CULI) Account in place where foods served to staff are purchased from. In fact Massachusetts Department of Correction Policy, 103 DOC 214, Employee Meals @ 214.01(1) clearly states:

Pursuant to the regulations as set forth by the Executive Office of the Administration and Finance in 801 CMR 4.03, RATES. Department Staff are required to purchase Meal Tickets at a cost of \$1.35 (plus meals tax) prior to the consumption of a state meal, whether from a staff dining room, or main line kitchen . . . (emphasis added);

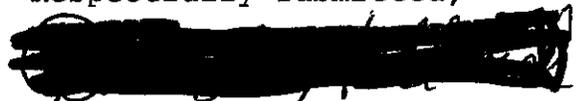
Clearly, the option to purchase a meal from the main line kitchen is to purchase the same meal being served to the inmate population, and not to allow those entrusted with the management of the Inmate Food Account to fraudulently convert inmate funds into a free or discounted meal.

This misappropriation of inmate monies is not new. In July of 2019 a report was generated by the Norfolk Inmate Council for the period of February 2018 thru February 2019, which found and highlights over \$23,000 that was spent on foods never served to the inmate population. See attached, or view a copy at: [realcostofprisons.org/writing/](http://realcostofprisons.org/writing/) A copy was also sent to DOC Headquarters.

My main concern as a diabetic with underlying ailments is staying healthy through diet and exercise, especially in these uncertain times. Up until this lock-down I received a medically prescribed dietitian approved diet which was supposed to follow Court ordered guidelines. The diet I now receive which has improved very little since the start of the lock-down is far from what a diabetic is supposed to eat. When I personally asked you, a fellow diabetic, why I am forced to eat processed turkey that resembles burnt skin and an abundance of other processed meats and foods, potato chips at most every meal, and an unbalanced diet devoid of essential vitamins such as vitamin C; you said that there was not enough staff available to prepare medically prescribed diabetic meals. You also said that the CDC has "mandated the DOC not to allow inmates to work in the kitchen" even though they are allowed to work in other parts of the institution. You have asked that I be patient.

I would point out that if the limited staff available were tasked with preparing the 70 medically prescribed diabetic diets instead of preparing foods misappropriated from the Inmate Food Account, I would not be forced to litigate this matter. And, if the monies being misused by staff were spent on a better quality of food (for inmates) during this pandemic, inmates might stay healthier and fare better in fighting this virus WHEN it hits Norfolk.

Respectfully submitted,



, IMCE-Norfolk