

Norfolk Inmate Council
Executive Board
2 Clark Street / P.O. Box 43
Norfolk MA. 02056

May 17, 2026

Matthew Moniz
Director of Program Services
50 Maple Street
Milford MA 01757

RE: Group / Religious / NIC , Donations

Dear Director Moniz :

On behalf of the Norfolk Inmate Council (NIC) I am asking for your assistance in yet another matter eating at the fabric of the Community within MCI-Norfolk. The new interpretation of 103 CMR 405, 103 DOC 473 & SOP 103 CMR 471 in March of 2026 is having negative effects of limiting or eliminating donations to groups within prisons.

In brief the current application to only allow \$2.00 donations which seems to be an out of date amount allowed which has never been updated. Also the blanket application to Self Improvement Groups and Religions, excluding donations to all other groups not falling under those categories makes no penological sense. This prohibition for prisoners to donate to various groups (NIC, Self Help groups, etc.) fails to help educate prisoners to invest in the community and upon entering society. Please remember one bag of coffee costs \$4.39, Creamer \$2.05 and even styrofoam cups cost \$.87. This does not account for office supplies nor the reduction of inmate jobs by half which has further cash strapped many prisoners, limiting the number of prisoners who can donate to groups. MCI-Norfolk desperately needs someone in Milford to champion for a correction in this reinterpretation of policy and provide corrective action.

This harmful application of Policy does not take into account the unique nature of Norfolk with Committees, the NIC and prisoner engagement. To better understand and see what I am trying to express to you please come to Community Day (July 29, 2026, 9:00-11:00 AM) to better understand the dynamic nature of MCI-Norfolk and Howard B. Gill's vision of a Community Prison.

This restriction makes no logical sense. After Governor Healy's failure to provide appropriate protections for funding of the Inmate Benefit Fund, with her action in regards to Canteen costs, which essentially defunded groups. In turn prisoners had/have taken on the burden ourselves to purchase the needed supplies (Refreshments, Office Supplies, Appliances) to function and operate as Norfolk was intended. To now limit or stop donations is another tactical blow to the community which will continue to greatly cause further harm to the operations of Community Engagement here at MCI-Norfolk.

Furthermore 103 CMR 405.13 & 103 DOC 473 clearly indicates that donations are separate from dues and should not be precluded as was the practice for decades. If this decision remains in place then when Walk's (Fund Raisers) for charities and certain causes that are held (Suicide Prevention, Domestic Violence, etc)

this same standard will greatly limit the amount of funds being raised.

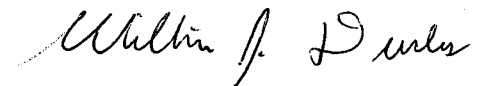
Many religions' doctrine further requires a "tithe" which in some cases will exceed the \$2.00 due amount. Thus limiting their ability to follow certain faith principles.

Due to the harm this action is taking, the NIC is respectfully requesting a correction to this matter in the form of a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to include but not limited to increasing the donations to \$25.00 a month per I/I per group. The NIC and other groups which fall outside of this new application should have another standard as prisoners are required to purchase office supplies and unit appliances to maintain the integrity of prisoner engagement and supporting the work going on at MCI-Norfolk.

If possible please come to Norfolk and meet with the NIC Executive Board to better find a means to correct this destructive action.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Jenkins".

cc: Real Cost of Prisons Project
Shawn Jenkins, Commissioner
Nelson Alves, Chief of Staff DOC
Holly Rossi, Deputy Superintendent
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