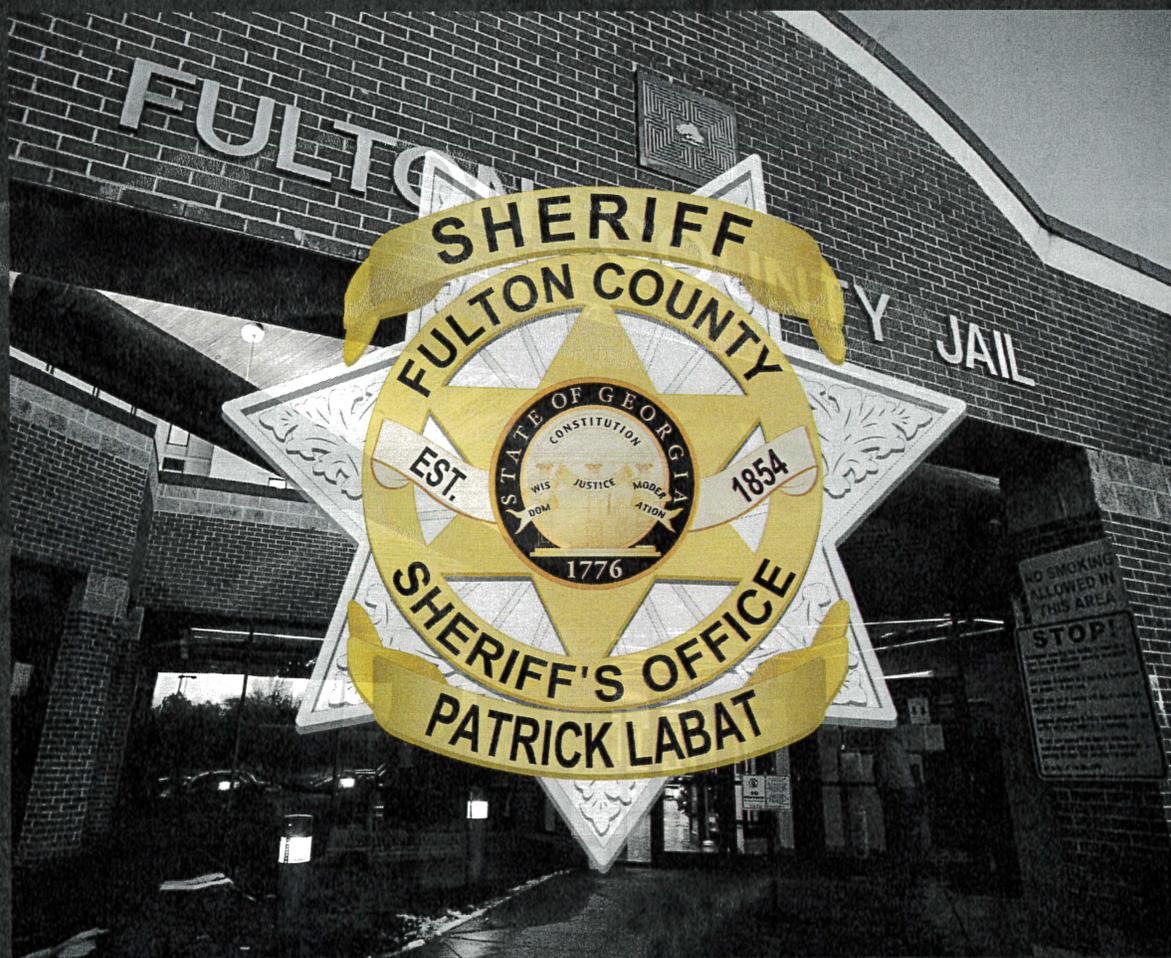


FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JAIL DATA REPORT
SHERIFF PATRICK "PAT" LABAT



*Serving, Protecting, & Building
Our Communities*



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

185 CENTRAL AVENUE, S. W. 9TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
(404) 612-5100

PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

WWW.FCSOGA.ORG

September 21, 2022

Members of the Justice Policy Board,

Since its inception, the Fulton County Jail has exceeded both its design and operational capacities. As a result of court backlogs and a rise in crime, the jail's population has reached a critical level — housing approximately 3,600 inmates. In an effort to ameliorate this overcrowding, and with the support of Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, I explored the possibility of temporarily housing detainees at the Atlanta City Detention Center.

On August 15, 2022, the Atlanta City Council approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and myself. Thereafter, on August 17, 2022, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the IGA and its related financing. During the City Council meeting, however, the City Council enacted legislation requiring statistical data relating to the Fulton County Jail population.

Specifically, the legislation requires that the Justice Policy Board provide a report to City Council, to include a statistical analysis of the Fulton County Jail population. City Council articulated the report requirements as follows:

The report shall detail a review to be conducted which shall include a statistical analysis of the jail populations of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County which would include but would not be limited to an analysis of data related to the total populations, the offenses which detainees are booked under, the average length of detention, the average bond issued per violation, the reasons for detainee release, and the frequency of the charging of each offense.

While the legislation requires data from both Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, as well as certain action by the Justice Policy Board, as the Sheriff of Fulton County, I, alone, am constitutionally charged with humanely detaining those individuals in my custody. With that in mind, in the essence of time, I have attached statistical data relating to the Fulton County Jail population.

This data, which includes an analysis thereof, satisfies the requirements of the legislation. And while the Justice Policy Review Board may continue to work to analyze and evaluate this data, I ask that you expedite the creation and submission of the jail population report such that Fulton County detainees can be housed in the Atlanta City Detention Center as soon as practicable.

Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed data.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat
Fulton County Sheriff's Office

Cc: Robert "Robb" Pitts, Chairman
Liz Hausmann, Vice Chair
Robert Ellis, Commissioner
Lee Morris, Commissioner
Natalie Hall, Commissioner
Marvin S. Arrington, Commissioner
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
Mayor Andre Dickens
Judge Robert McBurney
Dustin Hillis, City Council Member
Dick Anderson, Fulton County Manager
Alton Adams, Fulton County, Chief Operating Officer



PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

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September 20, 2022

Acting Director, Shaina Vanek
National Institute of Corrections
320 First Street N.W.
Rm. 901D – 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20534
(VIA Email)

Re: Urgent Request for Security Audit, Technical Assistance and Support

Dear Director Vanek:

As the Sheriff of Fulton County, Georgia, who is charged with the safekeeping of inmates in the county jail,¹ I am formally requesting a security audit, technical assistance, and your support in light of a number of potentially dangerous circumstances, to include jail crowding; inmate attacks on both inmates and custody staff; alleged criminal activity by, and arrest of, employees and contractors; and in-custody deaths of a number of inmates at the Fulton County Jail (FCJ).

The FCJ exceeded capacity from the time it was built. Specially, the FCJ operational capacity is 2,652. As a result of court backlogs, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and a dramatic rise in crime, however, the current average daily jail population is approximately 3,600 inmates. These conditions require FCJ staff to house more nearly 530 inmates on portable sleeping devices, which are located in common areas. Because the inmates are housed in common areas, they cannot be secured behind locked doors. This condition creates a significant safety risk for both detainees and staff. Overcrowding at the FCJ has reached a critical point.

Equally challenging is the rapid and extensive deterioration of the FCJ's physical plant, which allows inmates to use parts of the building to create weapons and hide contraband. This specific condition has contributed to attacks on FCJ staff and inmates alike. Additionally, dozens of cell doors can be neither fully closed nor locked, thus preventing jail staff from performing a quintessential function of their duties – securing detainees. To highlight this point, in recent months, we have documented the confiscation of at least 1,139 weapons, 25 cellular phones, narcotics, and tobacco. Related, this year, 2 employees and 3 contractors have been arrested

¹ See Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 42-4-1.

for their alleged role in trafficking contraband, and there are, currently underway, 53 investigations related to jail staff and/or vendor misconduct.

It is my duty to secure the FCJ and to protect my staff and those within my custody and care. Current conditions, however, jeopardize the performance of these duties and the safety of the FCJ operations. My request, therefore, is urgent and I ask for your assistance as soon as practicable.

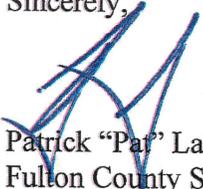
I ask that your review and assistance include, but not be limited to, addressing our policies, procedures, training, and jail operations relating to:

- all aspects of the impact of FCJ physical plant deterioration on jail operations and safety;
- all aspects of the impact of critical overcrowding on detainee, staff and contractor safety; and
- the mental and emotional health and wellness of the inmates and correctional staff.

While I applaud the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for their prudence in commissioning a jail feasibility study, I do not have the luxury of time as it regards the safety of either my employees or those within my custody and care. As we continue our work towards building a new jail, therefore, we welcome your input, guidance, and support in furtherance of my goal of protecting the FCJ and our community.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance. Thank you.

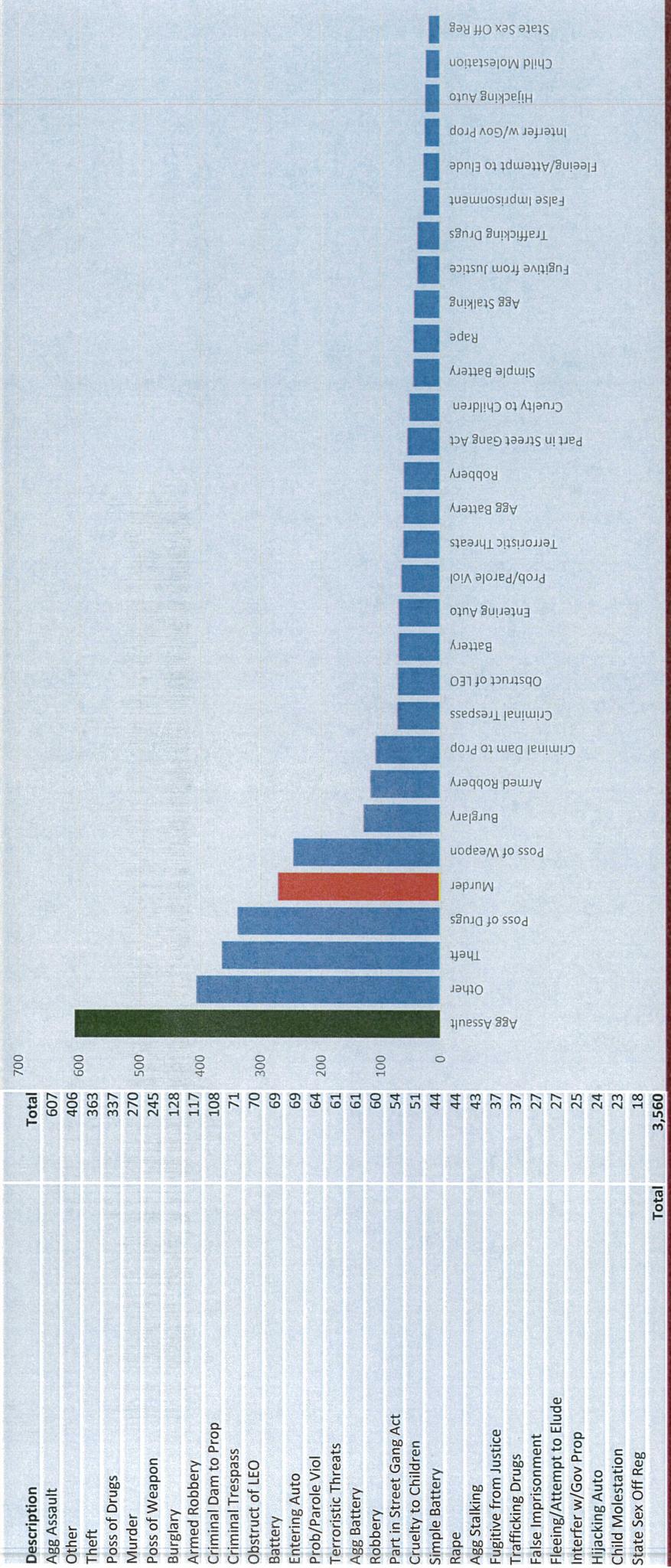
Sincerely,



Patrick "Pat" Labat
Fulton County Sheriff

Cc: Robert "Robb" Pitts, Chairman
Liz Hausmann, Vice Chair
Robert Ellis, Commissioner
Lee Morris, Commissioner
Natalie Hall, Commissioner
Marvin S. Arrington, Commissioner
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
Dick Anderson, Fulton County Manager
J. Terry Norris, Executive Director of The Georgia Sheriffs' Association

Fulton County Jail Charges At A Glance – September 7, 2022



Categories:

MISDEMEANOR	134
COMPETENCY - MISDEMEANOR	19
FELONY	87
TO BE RELEASED	8
RELEASED	<u>13</u>
	261