

Challenges with Increased Population at Wake County Detention Center

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JOHN H. BAKER JR. PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER



WAKE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

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Summary

- Ongoing challenges with increased population at Wake County Detention Center
- Strategies being implemented to manage population growth.
- Ongoing recruitment efforts for detention officers.



Wake County Detention Center

- Main facility that processes all Wake County arrests.
- WCDC can house 1094 residents consisting of minimum, medium and maximum classifications.
- Includes 22-bed medical observation unit.
- WCDC provides numerous classes by volunteer instruction and Wake Technical College.

John H. Baker, Jr. Public Safety Center

- John H. Baker, Jr. Public Safety Center serves as secondary housing facility.
- Capacity of 480 residents consisting of maximum custody.
- The classification ranges from Federal, WRITS, and restricted population.

Challenges with Increased Population

- Health and safety of residents
Overcrowding can lead to the spread of infectious diseases.
- Safety of staff
Overcrowding can lead to more staff assaults.
- Not having adequate space
Unable to separate residents and create programs to implement the type of assistance that the residents require.
- Mental Health
Mental illness is a common issue in the detention system. Overcrowding does not allow for step down units. It can also worsen mental health problems.

Challenges with Increased Population

-Staff Stress

Overcrowding can cause more stress for detention staff.

-Gang activity

Overcrowding can lead to increased gang activity.

-Unsanitary conditions

Overcrowding can lead to unsanitary conditions.

-Violence

It can also increase the risk of violence, self-harm, and suicide.

Strategies to Manage Population Growth

- Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program (MCP)
We limit the number of MCP residents we house.
- Federal Inmates
We limit the number of Federal residents we house.
- Weekenders
We limit the number of weekenders we house.
- NC Department of Adult Corrections
Transport inmates to DAC in a timely manner.

Recruitment Efforts



WAKE COUNTY
SERVE AND PROTECT
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

\$56,700

STARTING PAY FOR DEPUTIES & DETENTION OFFICERS
AFTER GRADUATING BLET OR DOCC

When you work here you have:

- INCENTIVE PAY FOR EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, MILITARY SERVICE AND FLUENCY IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS & WELLNESS PROGRAMS
- PAID PARENTAL, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, BEREAVEMENT, AND WELLNESS LEAVE
- AFLAC BENEFITS
- PET INSURANCE
- FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE
- 401K AND 457B PLANS
- TUITION REIMBURSEMENT



[@wakesheriff](#) [wake.gov/sheriff](#) [Sheriff.Recruiting@wake.gov](#)



Detention Officer assigned to recruiting

Starting pay equal to deputy sheriff

Incentive Pay for:

- Education
- Military
- Fluency in foreign language
- Experience

Recruiting Video

Attend job fairs

Recruiting ads

Bonus for Staff

- bonus for staff who recommend someone who is hired.

Future Plans

- Create a Detention Response Team
- Install a body scanner to help control contraband entering the facility.
- Body worn cameras for all officers
- More advanced supervisor training
- Add more K9's

Questions ?



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