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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Alex Viqueira
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**ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CIVILIAN TASK FORCE
SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DISCUSS MEDICAL ISSUES
AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
*First Public Hearing is Scheduled on Saturday, October 3rd***

Essex County, NJ – The Essex County Correctional Facility Civilian Task Force will host its first public hearing on Saturday, October 3rd. The focus of this public hearing will be on the Essex County Correctional Facility's medical and health administrative practices and policies.

An in-person meeting where social distancing guidelines will be followed and masks required will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Place: New Jersey Reentry Corporation
936 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ

The meeting also will be livestreamed as follows:

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Livestream: [Facebook @EssexCountyCivilianTaskForce
<https://www.facebook.com/EssexCountyCivilianTaskForce>

**The public may participate by sending questions to
JailTaskForce@admin.essexcountynj.org.**

"The Task Force is committed to thoroughly and rigorously examining best medical practices. Saturday's hearing will focus on how best to ensure and enhance the health and wellbeing of the persons we serve," Task Force Chairman and Former Governor Jim McGreevey said.

During the hearing, Task Force members will be interviewing relevant ECCF medical staff and gathering information, which will ultimately inform the items of inquiry addressed by the Task Force.

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This is the first of three public hearings scheduled to be held during 2020. Subsequent public hearings will focus on mental health and addiction treatment.

Those wishing to contact the Civilian Task Force, submit a complaint or want more information about the public hearing should e-mail to JailTaskForce@admin.essexcountynj.org or call 973 877-8037. For more information about the Task Force, visit www.essexcountynj.org/corrections/ and click on the link for the "Civilian Task Force."

The intent of the nine-member task force is to provide "transparency and accountability" of the ECCF staff, to protect the "lives, health, safety and rights of all people confined at the ECCF" and ensure the "conditions of their confinement are safe, sanitary, respectful and humane," according to language in the ordinance. It will act independently of County government and have the authority to inspect the ECCF, interview corrections officers, inmates, detainees, and review systematic issues and concerns.

Members of the Task Force were nominated by Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in June through an established advice and consent procedure that is used to fill vacancies on all county boards and commissions.

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