

*ATTACHMENT E*

Hello, my name is David Pflieger, I have been a Correctional Officer at Nevada State Prison for a bit over FOUR years now.

Today I will take the perspective of what makes NSP so unique and why it would be a grave mistake to close it.

For one, NSP is built as a maximum security prison and houses medium security inmates. In fact, it is more secure now than it was 15 years ago when it WAS a max. We have more fences, more barb wire, and more gun coverage. This makes the public much safer. The land is paid for, so NDOC does not have to pay a lease, unlike many other prisons across the state. NSP also houses maximum security inmates, inmates on death row, and inmates who come to Carson for court from Ely State Prison. There is not a "water shortage" like down south. Our yard has the some of the most experienced and seasoned officers in the State.

Now Nevada State Prison is very unique from any other prison in Nevada in that it is an extremely safe and secure institution. Our view from the Towers surrounding the Prison is exceptionally well compared to other institutions around the state. Every Tower can view the other tower next to it. The towers are so close together it would be very difficult to climb over the fence without being seen or heard. One gun position at NSP provides gun coverage for the high traffic areas for EIGHT of our housing units.

There is a gun cage in the culinary, which is the most high risk area in the prison for a violent incident to take place. No matter what recreational

yard you are on at NSP, there are a minimum of two guns providing safety of human life. If you take a tour at NSP, you will be protected from the moment you pull into the parking lot, to the moment you leave. This is a fact.

Let me explain something very quickly about the importance of gun coverage in an institution. If a fight breaks out between two inmates at NSP, an officer with a gun will immediately see it and rack the shotgun, and order them to stop and get on the ground. If this doesn't stop the fight, the officer will then fire a popper round (or a blank round). Most of the time this stops the fight immediately and the inmates will get on the ground. If they continue to fight, the officer will skip a non lethal 7-1/2 bird-shot round into the ground. Now these small pellets may be non lethal, but they sure do hurt and WILL stop the fight.

Now, same scenario at ANOTHER prison. A fight breaks out. Hopefully an officer will SEE the fight and then call for back up. He then has to wait. Then when back up arrives, if the inmates have weapons (or if the one inmate hasn't killed the other by this time) the officers are now in danger and could be hurt or killed. I cannot even begin to count the number of times fights have been stopped immediately due to the superior gun coverage at NSP. There have been so many inmate lives saved because of this. There would be several dead inmates now, with bashed in heads and broken bones if it weren't for the Tower, Gunpost, or Gunrail officers breaking up the fight immediately.

If an incident breaks out in a UNIT at NSP, we have only 24 inmates per wing max so we can segregate smaller groups of inmates if an incident break out. The incident can be contained and the officers will only have 24 inmates to deal with. At other institutions and especially the new bowtie units, you will have DOZENS of inmates running rampant and will not be able to contain the situation.

The D.A. of Clark County stated "*It would be a grave mistake to close NSP due to the type of inmates they house.*" He stated this on the News in Vegas when the closure of NSP was first proposed last year. This guy knows what he is talking about. He knows better than any of us what type of inmates are coming into the system and he has made it clear closing NSP and transferring the inmates to other institutions would be a big mistake.

If you want to see the real side of NSP, I recommend taking a tour with seasoned officers who can show you around the institution and show you how secure the institution really is. Unfortunately thus far, lawmakers have only heard and seen the negatives of NSP from our administration. You need to see the positive side as well, for it is a much, much larger side. If someone wants to close a place, they are only going to show you the few negatives of it. You cannot put a dollar sign on the value of NSP, nor can you put a dollar sign on the value of human lives that will be saved by keeping it open.

In closing, I would like to say, in a few years we will have more inmates, and hopefully more officers if we can ever get another Academy going

again. But you can bet, as sure as the sun will rise and set, the officers of Nevada State Prison will still be here protecting the public just as they have been for decades. We will have to deal with the consequences of the decisions that are made today. I pray they are the right ones and also for the right reasons.