70 of TDCJ’s 100 Facilities ARE NOT FULLY AIR CONDITIONED

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR:
HUMANE TEMPERATURES in ALL TDCJ facilities. Currently, Texas Jails utilize a temperature standard of between 65°F and 85°F. We MUST put the same standard in place for TDCJ’s prison facilities and put an end to decades of torture. Let’s finally get this situation resolved! #YouCanMakeADifference

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Taxpayers are losing MILLIONS of dollars on medical/heat related lawsuits and stand to lose more in the near future

| Lawsuits and Settlements | Death of Kenneth James 4:18-CV-00975 | $900,000.00 | Death of Douglas Hudson 4:18-CV-00976 | $475,000.00 | Death of Rodney Adams 4:14-CV-03326 | $750,000.00 | Death of Larry McCollum 4:14-CV-03253 | $905,000.00 | Death of Robert Allen Web 4:14-CV-03302 | $600,000.00 | Death of Michael Martone 4:13-CV-03369 | $500,000.00 | Death of Alexander Togonidze 4:14-CV-03324 | $450,000.00 | Death of Albert Hinojosa 4:14-CV-03311 | $250,000.00 | Brad Ceddell, who survived a heat stroke, 4:14-CV-03323 | $90,000.00 | Pack Lawsuit Cole v. Collier 4:14-CV-01698 | $7,000,000.00 | Roy Jones 4:17-CV-02334 | $101,500.00 | Total | $12,021,500.00 |

Violation of Rights & Inhumane Treatment
US District Judge Keith P. Ellison ruled in July 2018 that heat inside prisons was “cruel and unusual punishment.” (Houston Chronical, 2018, Pack Lawsuit).

- Extreme Heat has Killed too many
  - Excessive heat is STILL the number one weather-related killer in the United States. (2023)
  - Both incarcerated individuals and staff have died due to the extreme heat.
  - Suicide rates within TDCJ facilities increase during hot summer months.
  - Exposure to extreme heat can lead to aggression and exacerbate mental health problems putting incarcerated individuals and correctional officers at increased risk for violence and injury.
  - Heat is a Contributing factor in Employee turnover. As of Dec 2022, TDCJ is understaffed by 31.3%.

- Excessive Medical Expenses
  - Heat can cause a medical crisis and intensify the severity of pre-existing medical conditions, which can lead to substantial increases in medical care costs. Daily Medical costs from 2022, according to TDCJ’s budget, are $1,828,698.48 per day.

- Lack of Humane Temperatures in all TDCJ facilities Inhibits Rehabilitative Efforts
  - The few rehabilitative programs that TDCJ offers are unit-specific. Therefore, if an individual isn’t transferred to one of those particular units, they are denied access to participate in these rehabilitative programs.

- Current Mitigation policies are ineffective
  - Policies are ignored
  - The current policy is riddled with problems. It’s unsatisfactory, inconsistent, and just not working.

"ON A TYPICAL HOT SUMMER DAY IN TEXAS, IF IT’S 90°F AND YOU ADD HUMIDITY, IT CAN FEEL LIKE 100°F. HOWEVER, THIS SUMMER, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED TEMPERATURES OVER 110°F IN SOME AREAS. NOW, WHAT IF YOU WERE LOCKED IN A CONCRETE BUILDING (KIND OF LIKE BAKING IN AN OVEN) WITH LIMITED VENTILATION AND LITTLE TO NO BREEZE? AT 110°F PLUS HUMIDITY, THAT GETS US TO AT LEAST 120°F. NOW ADDING INADEQUATE VENTILATION, CONCRETE, AND METAL, WE’RE AT A MINIMUM OF 125°F. ACCORDING TO THE HEATING MATRIX UTILIZED BY TDCJ, AT 90°F, HEAT EXHAUSTION IS POSSIBLE, AND AT 105°F, HEATSTROKE IS POSSIBLE."