

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

September 16, 1968

Sheriff William N. Morris, Jr.
Criminal Courts Building
Memphis, Tennessee

RE: LIGHTING IN "A" BLOCK

Dear Sir:

Inside "A" Block there are sixteen lights and are located in the following positions: (1) 60 watt bulb in each utility well in each cell, these lights are behind a small window in the cell wall and emit very little light into the cell. (2) Two 189 watt bulbs in the corridor where the control box is located. This area is seperated from the area where the occupant is by a steel wall and two steel doors with small observation windows. These two lights emit very little light into the area where the occupant is. (3) Eight 189 watt bulbs are located in the inspection corridor next to the exercise area. These eight lights are the main source of light for "A" Block.


Using a general electric light meter with the hood open, measurements were made in the corridor where the control box is located and the reading of nine foot candles was obtained. In the exercise area a reading of nine foot candles was obtained at both ends and in the middle of the exercise area. In the cell where the occupant sleeps, a reading of six foot candles was recorded with the meter pointing toward the wall farthest from the lights. With meter pointing toward ceiling four foot candles, towards lights - nine foot candles.

With five of the ten 189 watt bulbs off, the following reading were recorded: (1) Exercise area, in the middle and east end - seven foot candles. At the west end - nine foot candles. Inside the cell, meter towards wall farthest from lights - seven foot candles, towards light - eight foot candles, towards ceiling - two and one half foot candles. In corridor with control box - nine foot candles.

For comparision reading were made in the inspection corridor of "F" Block on the Third Floor. This reading was made in the day time with lights on. The reading was fourteen foot candles. In Judge Battle's courtroom with lights on, a reading of five foot candles was obtained. In the security unit at John Gaston Hospital at 12:15 p.m. with an overcast sky, a reading of thirty-seven foot candles was obtained by placing the light meter on the bed facing

towards the window. From the center of the room, with the light meter towards each wall with the exception of the outside wall with the windows, a reading of nine foot candles were recorded. In the alley in the rear of the Jail at 11:45 a.m. with an over-cast sky, a reading of sixty-five foot candles were recorded.

Respectfully submitted,


Lt. B. J. Smith

BJS/prb