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NEWS RELEASE

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The Utah Department of Corrections will move inmates out of the Lone Peak minimum-security housing facility and one building at the Timpanogos Women's Correctional Facility over the next several months.

There are currently 204 inmates housed in the 300-bed Lone Peak Facility. They will be moved to the Wasatch Facility. Upon their move to Wasatch, these inmates will continue to have access to programming and to work opportunities with Utah Correctional Industries.

Inmates residing in Timpanogos Building 2 will be moved to open beds in other housing units and possibly to county jails as part of the Inmate Placement Program. There are currently 35 inmates housed in this 143-bed building.

These moves follow similar action taken last fall, when 231 beds in the Special Services Dorm, Wasatch C Block and Wasatch B North were shuttered. Inmates in those areas were relocated to other housing facilities at the Utah State Prison, the Central Utah Correctional Facility and county jails.

The Department is taking this action as it continues to manage a shortage of correctional officers that has required mandatory overtime, which can take a toll on staff and contribute to burnout. Most important, these actions ensure our ability to provide the level of supervision needed for safety and security.

The Department currently has 142 correctional officer vacancies (95 at the Utah State Prison and 47 at the Central Utah Correctional Facility).

The projected overtime need due to vacation requests and currently unfilled posts is expected to average about 5,500 hours during July and August. The closure of these two buildings will cut almost in half the required overtime.

Another factor in the ability to close some buildings is a steady decline in the inmate population.

Since last May, the average monthly population of inmates has decreased by 467. As of today, there are 452 women and 5,847 men in the custody of the Utah Department of Corrections.

The housing moves also allow the Department to meet its contractual commitments to county jails.

A new 192-bed housing facility is slated to open at the Central Utah Correctional Facility by fall. It is expected that the opening of the new unit will allow closure of another building at the Utah State Prison.

Some buildings selected for closure at the Utah State Prison are among those most in need of major renovation — such as the Special Services Dorm — or are inefficient to operate and manage — such as Lone Peak, which is a dormitory-style, linear design building.

All of the housing areas being shut down could quickly be re-opened if needed in response to an inmate population increase.

NOTE: *The Lone Peak housing facility was built in 2000. The Timpanogos Women's Correctional Facility was built in 1983.*

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