



## Internal Memo

**Date:** September 24, 2025

**To:** Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

**From:** Paul Schnell, Commissioner

### RE: Update on the Phased Closure of MCF-Stillwater

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is continuing to prepare for Phase 1 of the MCF-Stillwater closure. This is an update to the progress since the September 18 memo:

#### **MCF-Stillwater Population Update:**

Last week, 163 people were moved out of MCF-Stillwater and 54 people were moved in. The total population at the prison is now 529.

This week, another 36 incarcerated individuals are scheduled to move out. This is scheduled to be the last large group transfer out of Stillwater for this portion of the phased closure.

#### ***Earned Living Unit***

Work assignments are being finalized for Earned Living Unit participants. The facility is working to build out new programs that use proven, evidence-based practices. They are also planning ways to share program choices more clearly with the incarcerated population, such as through an education catalog or opportunity fairs.

#### ***Atlantis***

The Atlantis substance use treatment program at Stillwater is now at full capacity. Residents are helping improve the space by adding murals and fresh paint to make it feel more welcoming and therapeutic.

#### **Legislative Hearing:**

On Thursday, September 25, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee will hold a virtual public hearing on the Stillwater closure. Commissioner Schnell and others will present on the DOC's progress towards closure and answer questions from Legislators. A live stream of the hearing will be available here: [senate.mn/media](https://senate.mn/media).