



Central Office

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[www.mn.gov/doc](http://www.mn.gov/doc)

August 30, 2021

Sheriff Ross Litman  
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office  
100 North Fifth Avenue West  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Re: St Louis County Holding Facility in Hibbing**

Sheriff Litman,

On April 30, 2021, the Department of Correction's (DOC) licensure of the Class I Holding Facility located at 1810 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746 was allowed to expire. This was a planned expiration as part of St Louis County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter, dated April 15, 2021, the DOC notified the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office of the process to reoccupy the facility. On June 22, 2021, Jail Administrator Jessica Pete emailed a request to reopen the Hibbing Holding Facility effective September 11, 2021.

The DOC Inspection and Enforcement Unit conducted a pre-occupancy inspection of the facility on August 17, 2021. During the onsite inspection it was noted that floors in the cells and dayrooms had all be refinished with an epoxy coating. A Guardian RFID system was also installed at each cell and dayroom to assist with the tracking of well-being checks.

Other items reviewed during the inspection included review of the Fire Marshal's report, a staffing review, first aid equipment, keys, and security electronics. Licensure of the facility will be granted to the facility upon the following items being provided to the DOC, prior to inmates being housed in the facility.

- verification of bedding, linens , and clothing for inmates available on site; and
- documentation of a facility shakedown including manual and remote testing of all security locks; and
- a final search for contraband and construction debris.

During the inspection it was understood that the Minnesota Department of Health was unable to complete a health inspection because food service was not operational. It is the expectation of the DOC that a health inspection be schedule as soon as practicable after the facility reopens.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [christopher.thoma@state.mn.us](mailto:christopher.thoma@state.mn.us) or (952) 484-4548.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Thoma'.

Christopher Thoma  
Detention Facility Inspector

CC: Jail Administrator Jessica Pete  
Captain Mike Richards  
St. Louis County - Hibbing File