



July 30, 2026

Captain Tony Buschur, Greene County Jail Division
2295 Greenway Blvd
Xenia, OH 45385

Via Email: tony.buschur@greencountyohio.gov; mark.buschur@greencountyohio.gov

Greene County Board of Commissioners
Dick Gould, Greene County, Ohio Board Commissioner
Tom Koogler, Greene County, Ohio Board Commissioner
Sarah Mays, Greene County, Ohio Board Commissioner
35 Greene St
Xenia, OH 45385

Via Email: dick.gould@greencountyohio.gov; tom.koogler@greencountyohio.gov;
sarah.mays@greencountyohio.gov

(via Fedex Overnight)

Dear Captain Buschur and Greene County Board of Commissioners Gould, Koogler, and Mays:

We write regarding your July 1, 2026 RFP for food service at Greene County Jail, Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, and Juvenile Detention Center to apprise you of our concerns regarding Aramark's history with carceral food service, both in Ohio prisons and in departments of corrections across the U.S. A recently published report on Aramark's performance in prisons Private Food, Public Harm, co-authored by the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the Coalition for Carceral Nutrition, is especially timely and pertinent to your efforts.ⁱ

UNITE HERE Local 11 is a labor union representing over 32,000 hospitality workers in Southern California and Arizona who work in hotels, restaurants, universities, convention centers, and airports, including hundreds of workers employed by Aramark. In an effort to better understand how Aramark is performing under the many contracts the company holds in the state of Arizona, including with the state prison system, we have developed serious concerns about Aramark's record in carceral food service.

Aramark has drawn criticism around the country for its prison food service and has a long history of allegedly providing substandard food in prisons.ⁱⁱ Civil rights advocates and formerly incarcerated individuals have alleged tainted food, food substitutions, and other health and safety issues.^{iii iv}

You are likely aware that in 2017, the Ohio state Inspector General found that Aramark overcharged the state and ordered Aramark to repay over \$57,000^v; the investigation also highlighted \$37,682.73 in payments to Aramark for expenses whose reimbursement was not included under the terms of the original contract.^{vi} In addition, the state fined Aramark \$272,000 in 2014 in connection with contract violations including sanitation issues, food shortages, and employee misconduct including inappropriate relationships between employees and inmates.^{vii}

In its bid for the Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation & Reentry (ADCRR) in 2024, Aramark itself disclosed over 40 ongoing cases under litigation. Cases among those listed involved allegations of potentially serious issue with the company's prison food service operations, including inadequate meals, mishandling of religious meals, medical violations, food handling, safety, sanitation, sexual assault and harassment, discrimination based on sex, retaliation, wage and hours claims, and injuries from eating foreign objects, falls, and burns.^{viii}

Aramark lost its contract with Mississippi DOC in 2021 after inmates alleged that food was often "spoiled, rotten, molded or undercooked" and that portions allegedly were too small.^{ix} In 2015, the state of Michigan terminated its three-year contract a year early following allegations of unapproved menu substitutions, unsanitary conditions, and employee misconduct.^x

We urge you to consider Aramark's track record in both Ohio and across the U.S. as you evaluate the company for your RFP for food service at the Greene County Jail, Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, and Juvenile Detention Center and to select an alternate provider that will be better able to fulfill the needs of Greene County.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me or UNITE HERE Local 11 Lead Researcher Jordan Fein (jfein@unitehere11.org) to discuss this matter and our concerns with Aramark's carceral food service business further if you have any questions.



Susan Minato

CC:

Ohio State Senator Kyle Koehler
Ohio State Representative Brian Lampton
Ohio State Representative Levi Dean
Xenia, Ohio City Council President Wesley Smith and Councilmembers

ⁱ Private Food, Public Harm: Privatized Food Service in Prisons and Jails, Center for Science in the Public Interest & Coalition for Carceral Nutrition, updated May 1, 2026 <https://www.cspi.org/PrivateFoodPublicHarm>

ⁱⁱ What It's Like to Eat Some of the Worst Prison Food in America, Stephen Katz, July 26, 2016

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/what-its-like-to-eat-some-of-the-worst-prison-food-in-america/>

ⁱⁱⁱ IBID and Private Food, Public Harm (Page 19, “Food Safety as a Persistent, Normalized Risk”)

^{iv} ACLU of Ohio Letter to Correctional Institution Inspection Committee from Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist, July 20, 2014 https://www.acluohio.org/app/uploads/2014/07/2014_0730TestimonyCIICAramark.pdf

^v “Aramark at the Center of Food Service Controversy” Posted June 21, 2017, by Ohio Civil Service Employees Association

<https://ocsea.org/news/Detail/prison-food-service-contractor-aramark-controversy/>

^{vi} “Ohio Experiences Continued Problems with Aramark” by Christopher Zoukis, Prison Legal News, Loaded on Jan. 31, 2018

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2018/jan/31/ohio-experiences-continued-problems-aramark#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20June%2015%2C,in%20excess%20of%20%243%20million>

^{vii} “Ohio wants vendor to keep feeding inmates despite problems” by Andrew Wwelsh-Huggins, Feb. 11, 2015

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/ohio-wants-vendor-to-keep-feeding-inmates-despite-problems/3551397>

^{viii} “AZ Contract CTR072628 Contractor Proposal Response: Aramark: Attachment 9 – Experience and Capacity, April 3, 2024 pages 6-7”, https://app.az.gov/page.aspx/en/ctr/contract_manage_public/76835

^{ix} “Mississippi Prisons End Contract with Controversial Food Provider” by Justin Bey, April 27, 2021,

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mississippi-prisons-aramark-end-contract-team-roc/>

^x “Michigan Ends Prison Food Contract Year After Company Fined” by Dave Eggert, July 13, 2015,

<https://apnews.com/michigan-ends-prison-food-contract-year-after-company-fined-9174f9282ea14bfb1b550faf6ba77fbc1>.