



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**June 16, 2015**

**Bradley County Sheriff Eric Watson announces the Recertification of the Bradley County Jail by the Tennessee Corrections Institute. Every jail or holding facility in Tennessee must meet standards set forth by the Tennessee Code Annotated.**

**Sheriff Watson said, “I asked TCI to visit late last year for a detailed walk-through to point out potential problems, because I was concerned about the conditions I found when my new administration took possession of the jail on September 1,” he said. “The TCI’s walk-through was very helpful, as inspectors pointed out deficiencies in the jail that could lead to serious problems. Their visit gave us time to get the work done and make several crucial improvements. My concern stemmed from what I immediately saw as a lack of cleanliness in the jail, as well as broken tiles, leaking showers and just an overall environment that was less than safe and secure.” Sheriff Watson said that over the past few years, staff had “done their best with what they were given to work with” and that staff members assisted with the improvements “we simply had to make to remain functional.”**

**“I took the information gathered from the TCI visit, as well as what I saw for myself, then our Corrections staff and others took up the task of making important improvements to the shower areas, kitchens and other locations in the jail section. It was time consuming and hard work, but we knew it had to be done...and done correctly to meet TCI Standards,” Sheriff Watson added.**

**Corrections staff and inmate workers worked along with professionals to stem leaks in the showers, kitchen and through the walls. Broken tiles were replaced and the kitchen floors resealed. Cleaning the pod areas was another major undertaking, especially the floors and walls.**

**After putting in several weeks of work, Sheriff Watson and his staff, along with the head of Judicial Services and Corrections, Captain Gabe Thomas, met to check the improvements and determined if the jail was ready for TCI Recertification Inspection.**

**TCI's Denise Messer made the lengthy inspection and determined the issues found in the unofficial walk-through late in 2014 had been corrected.**

**Last week, Sheriff Watson received official notice of the Bradley County Jail's recertification by the Tennessee Corrections Institute. "It's no secret we found a mess on September 1<sup>st</sup>. We got on it immediately, got the unofficial visit, located the problem areas, of which there were many, and had them fixed." The Sheriff says, "It was exhausting, time consuming and just plain hard work, but it was done and the jail was recertified."**

**Sheriff Watson concluded by saying, "I promised to be a good steward of this facility the public paid for. Now, we check jail safety, security and cleanliness on a regular basis, and if we find a problem, it's dealt with immediately."**

**The TCI Jail recertification is good for one year.**