

**DECLARATION OF EZRA MCCOMBS**

I, Ezra McCombs, am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make the following declaration:

1. I am currently incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix. My Federal Bureau of Prisons Register Number is 28646-050. I am serving a sentence for a 2017 drug conspiracy case. My current release date is September 2021.

2. Until May 1, 2020, I was housed in the Fort Dix camp. On May 1, I and others in my unit were tested for COVID-19. Twenty-one of us tested positive and were moved to Building 5851 in the west compound, where I am currently housed on the second floor.

3. Before I was in the camp, I had been housed in Building 5852 in the west compound. The second floor here looks pretty much the same as Building 5852. It is not set up as a medical department. I am currently housed on the second floor in a 12-man room with bunk beds. I have three other men in my room, who all have tested positive and have symptoms. There are some single rooms in the back for really sick guys. There were a lot of really sick guys here when I first arrived, but they have either been taken to the hospital or have recovered.

4. A number of people from the camp have ended up in the hospital because of COVID-19. I know this either from talking with them or from the staff. For example, for the first guy to leave the camp, staff told us they did not think he had COVID-19 and that he would be tested for pneumonia. Then they announced he had tested positive and that we should not touch our faces, but they would not let us use makeshift masks. A little after that staff came to the camp with masks on, and then eventually we got masks. This man is now back in 5851. We are able to talk when we do our laundry on the ground floor. He told me that he was put in the Special Housing Unit or “hole” at first – I think he said for two days – then they took him to the

hospital. He had to be on the machine that helps you breathe. Eventually, he came back to 5851 to the second floor. He moved to the third floor right around when I got here.

5. There was another guy from the camp, an older Filipino man, who also ended up in the hospital but was released home around the same time.

6. Another man who I know from the camp got very sick there and was also taken to the hole before going to the hospital. He is in 5851 now and told me himself that he had been in the hospital.

7. On May 9, a man who had been on the second floor with me at 5851 was taken to the hospital. He was visibly very sick even when we were at the camp and would just sit by the window. In 5851, he told other men who speak Spanish how he was feeling. I saw the side of his face was swelling up. I don't speak Spanish but I would ask him, "you ok?" He'd shake his head and say, "I'm trying I'm trying." I haven't seen him since May 9. One of the officers confirmed that he was taken to the hospital.

8. The second floor of Building 5851 is being used to house people who have tested positive and are still actively sick. Once a person has been here for 14 days without symptoms, if they test negative, they go to the third floor.

9. But asymptomatic inmates who test positive are only kept on the second floor for ten days and then go right up to the third floor without being tested. That means they are going upstairs without any knowledge if they are still a carrier of the virus. My understanding is that asymptomatic carriers are the most dangerous and that that is how the virus got into the camp. One inmate who was previously asymptomatic and on the third floor was supposed to go home today. He developed a fever of 103 and was sent back to the second floor with me today. His family was here to pick him up and everything.

/s/ Ezra McCombs (by consent)

I, Tess Borden, certify that I reviewed the information contained in this declaration with Ezra McCombs by telephone on May 15, 2020 and by correspondence on May 19 and 20, 2020 and that, at that time, he certified that the information contained in this declaration was true and accurate to the best of his knowledge.

/s/ Tess Borden

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