



COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 17, 2023

Honorable Patrick Labat
Sheriff
Fulton County Jail
901 Rice Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

Dear Sheriff Patrick Labat:

I have recently learned that inmate, LaShawn Thompson, died last year in the Fulton County Jail after being eaten to death by bed bugs and insects.¹ This story was heartbreaking to learn about, and I extend condolences to his family.

Regarding the conditions of his cell, the pictures were unbearable to even look at, never mind live in. Forcing someone to live in such conditions, and ultimately die in, is an egregious human rights violation. Mr. Thompson was charged with a simple battery and was held in the psychiatric ward of the jail for only three months before being found dead in his cell. According to his attorney, Thompson mentally suffered from schizophrenia but was in excellent physical condition. His attorney also stated that while he was rotting away in his cell, he received no medical care from the Fulton County Jail medical staff.

Although immediate action was taken in response to the investigation², it is no secret that Fulton County Jail has a history of neglecting and abusing inmates. Under your watch, a mentally ill, young man was consumed by bugs and left for dead in inhumane conditions. In order to provide transparency into the tragedy that took place, I request that you provide answers to the following questions:

1. When were you first made aware of Mr. Thompson's living conditions?
2. Why didn't the medical staff at Fulton County Jail provide any assistance or medical care to Mr. Thompson?
3. Has anyone at Fulton County Jail been held accountable for the death of Mr. Thompson?
4. What are the updated protocols that the jail is taking to ensure safe sanitary conditions and to ensure that this never occurs again under your leadership?

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/georgia-inmate-eaten-alive-by-bugs-conditions-not-fit-deceased-animal-family-attorney-says>

² <https://www.atlantaneWSfirst.com/2023/04/13/fulton-county-sheriffs-office-addresses-jail-infestation-inmate-death/>

I look forward to your response. Please provide answers no later than April 30, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie Taylor Greene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress