

**Subject:** [EXT] Re: Reuters News request for comment

**Date:** Friday, June 27, 2025 at 6:21:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** ADC MEDIA

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out. While we do not have anyone available for an interview, the Department provides the following statement and request:

Under the leadership of Director Thornell, who was appointed to his position in January 2023 by Governor Hobbs, ADCRR has taken seriously the need to modernize the methods used to cool the indoor spaces of its prisons and provide more heat relief outdoors. The changes described in the ADCRR 2024 and 2025 roadmaps include updates to indoor air conditioning and modifications outdoors, such as the addition of misters, cooling stations, and shaded ramadas. These changes are crucial in providing relief and enhanced safety from Arizona's heat for inmates, staff, and visitors.

ADCRR's [HVAC Conversion Plan](#), dated May 1, 2025, contains the most up-to-date project information available.

Despite our Department's [new and robust heat mitigation efforts](#), which are truly unprecedented in the history of Arizona's prisons, it is disappointing to hear that someone has provided you allegations that are either outdated and no longer relevant (having occurred during past heat seasons, and already addressed by the Department) or are altogether inaccurate.

The Department is well-aware of issues in past years, and current staff have been directly addressing these with strong action from Department leadership, including new training and expectations for staff, and daily thorough review of all heat logs by Department leadership. In addition to daily review of heat logs, various ADCRR divisions, including Health Services, Facilities Management, Operations, and Constituent Services meet regularly and collaborate constantly to address any heat-related issues or concerns as soon as they arise.

The health, safety and wellbeing of ADCRR staff, incarcerated individuals, and anyone who visits our complexes is our top priority. As such, we respectfully request that you share with us the specific allegations you have received so that our Department can either address them on the ground immediately, or else dispel any allegations that are inaccurate or outdated.

Thank you,  
ADCRR Media Relations

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