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### **CoreCivic laying off 200 after walking away from Metro contract**

Three weeks after publicly ending its relationship with Metro Nashville, CoreCivic is cutting its workforce. The Nashville-based prison operator will lay off 202 workers, effective Oct. 4, according to a notice filed with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The cuts are related to CoreCivic's decision to walk away from its contract to operate the Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility. In an emailed statement to the Nashville Business Journal, CoreCivic Director of Public Affairs Amanda Gilchrist said the company is "proud of our nearly 30-year partnership at the Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility and the extensive evidence-based reentry programming we provided." "CoreCivic is working closely with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) to ensure a safe and seamless transfer of facility operations. ... "At the same time, we are currently assisting our employees impacted by the termination of the contract. We are working to provide them opportunities for transfer to other CoreCivic facilities and access to community employment resources. It's important to note that DCSO is actively recruiting CoreCivic staff at Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility to remain at the facility as DCSO employees." CoreCivic (NYSE: CXW) is one of Nashville's largest publicly traded companies, according to Nashville Business Journal research, with \$1.98 billion of revenue in 2019. In a letter to local leaders earlier this month, CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger accused the city of "playing politics" and announced plans to walk away from the contract to operate the Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility. Negotiations between CoreCivic and Metro for a new contract had been ongoing and CoreCivic was reportedly the only company that submitted a bid for the new five-year contract. A week prior, Metro Council members Freddie O'Connell and Emily Benedict had submitted legislation that would end Metro's relationship with CoreCivic, but later deferred their legislation. "While we acknowledge that it is Metro's prerogative to take steps toward ending our contract, we cannot allow our company, more importantly our employees, to be used as a punching bag by political opportunists who do not value the services we provide," Hininger wrote in a letter to Metro, which was obtained by The Tennessean. "We recognize the need for an orderly transition of facility operations, but cannot agree to be strung along while Metro takes calculated steps to end our partnership."