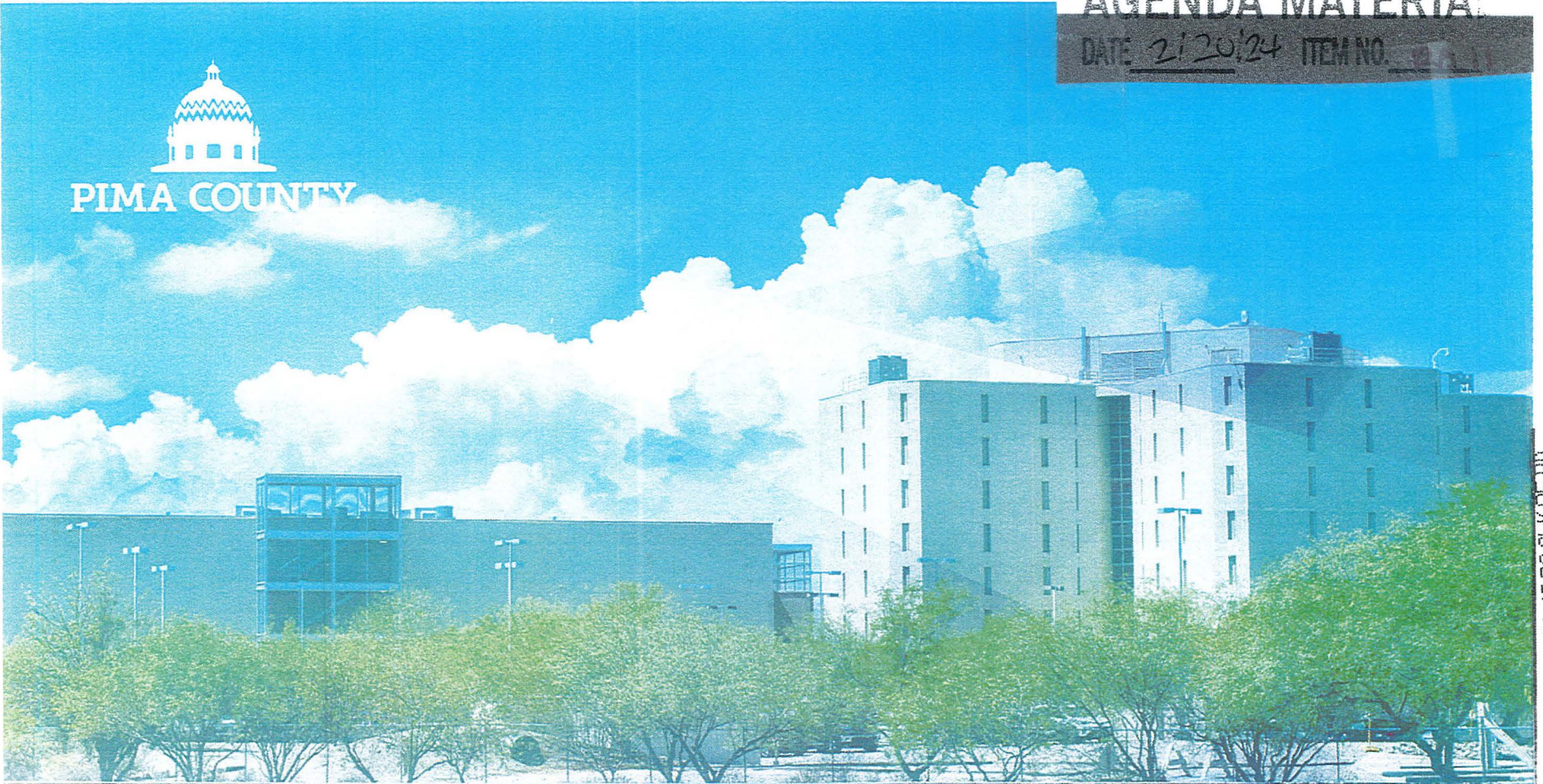


AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 2/20/24 ITEM NO. 10.1.1



PIMA COUNTY



FEB 20 24 PM 01:43 PC CLK DF-BD
mm

February 20, 2024

Pima County

Adult Blue Ribbon Commission

The 10-member Commission was tasked with reviewing information gathered from County staff, through public meetings, conversations with stakeholders, the public, the survey and subject matter experts, for the purposes of **assessing three areas:**

Assessment areas:

- 1) The current condition of the Pima County Adult Detention facility to determine the need and feasibility for design and capacity improvements and/or construction of a new facility;
- 2) Best practices and standards and other factors impacting operations due to changes in best practices since construction of the various buildings that comprise the adult detention center complex; and
- 3) Funding options available to the County for facility improvements and/or construction of a new facility and related services.

Pima County Adult Detention Center Blue Ribbon Commission Members

Chair

Daniel Sharp, former Chief,
Oro Valley Police Department

The 10 members

Divided themselves into three
working groups:

Facilities, Operations, and Finance

Pima County **Adult Blue Ribbon Commission**

Facilities Working Group

- Chair **David Ollanik**, Sundt Construction
- **Paul Wilson**, Former Bureau Chief, Pima County Sheriff's Department
- **Jack O'Brien**, Pima County Public Defender's Office

Operations Working Group

- Chair **India Davis**, Former Director, Pima County Adult Detention Center
- **Frank Hecht**, Chair, Sheriff's Citizen's Advisory Review Board, Corrections Professional
- **Grady Scott**, Pastor, Grace Temple and Missionary Baptist Church

Finance Working Group

- Chair **Chris Sheafe**, Real Estate Development/Member Rio Nuevo Board
- **Roberto Villaseñor**, former Chief, Tucson Police Department
- **Wendy Peterson**, Former Assistant County Administrator for Justice and Laws Enforcement

Pima County **Adult Blue Ribbon Commission**

The Commission held numerous **full-commission meetings and subcommittee meetings** over the past 10 months. It also held **public hearings** and conducted a **public survey to receive public feedback** about the three assessment areas. Members of the public also asked other assessments be made related to operating of or the need for an adult detention Center.

Commission Findings

(Executive Summary Page 17)

- Insufficient evidence to characterize the current situation as a “crisis”
- Jail facilities have exceeded their useful life in many areas
- Design deficiencies limit the full benefits of direct supervision
- Design of healthcare, mental health and detoxification units are obsolete
- A recurring, dedicated source of funding for maintenance and improvements is needed
- The jail is incarcerating more people than for which it was designed
- Overcrowding is occurring in notable areas such as the detoxification, healthcare and mental health units
- Jail population numbers are impacted by many external casual factors

Commission 8 Recommendations

(Executive Summary Page 17-18)

1. Jail facility improvements are necessary regardless of the jail population.
2. Expert professional assistance is required to evaluate building conditions, define options for remediating problems, develop cost estimates, and assess operational impacts.
3. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the criminal justice system to identify measures to reduce the inmate population.
4. Initiate a process to program, design, fund and construct jail improvements.
5. Appoint a Commission to research proven methods of reducing jail populations and propose changes to public policy, legislation, criminal justice services and community based services.
6. Identify a multifaceted approach that includes both improvements to the jail and programs to minimize jail population.
7. Involve the community in any discussion of funding mechanism(s).
8. Board levied taxes should be an option of last resort.

Conclusions

- Addressing jail conditions is not just about the facility itself
- A multi-faceted strategy is needed to modernize the facility to encourage
 - » Public safety
 - » Rehabilitation
 - » Cost savings
 - » Reintegration

We must

- Address the physical infrastructure to ensure the facilities are safe, right-sized, clean and conducive to rehabilitation
- Implement programs aimed at reducing recidivism
- Look at the criminal justice system to address sentencing policies, gaps and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders
- Support reintegration post-release with community partnerships
- Promote accountability and transparency in all systematic issues

Recommendations

1. Contract with a 3rd party consultant to initiate a high-level feasibility study on the conditions of the PCADC to determine what improvements can/need to be done, develop a possible masterplan and assess costs.
2. Review for inclusion in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 an increase in the funding to the Correctional Health Services Contract to enhance the availability of comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health services to those in PCADC.
3. Establish a new Commission, the charter for which will be brought to the Board at a later date, to develop and consider a possible third jail improvement alternative that explores a lower bed capacity than projected by the Commission; and incorporating specific programmatic proposals to reduce jail populations based on a larger review of the criminal justice system and possible procedural changes, with related metrics.
4. Create a County Finance Working Group that can look further into County funding sources, including revisiting the County's use of general obligation bonds, that can inform not only the purposes of this current effort, but also possibly other future large-scale capital and infrastructure needs.