

**NAACP.**  
*Tucson Branch*

April 2, 2023

Chair Grijalva and Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
130 W. Congress Street  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: *Justice System and Infrastructure Review Committee*

Dear Chair Grijalva and Supervisors:

The NAACP strongly supports County Administrator Jan Lesher's proposal to establish a new "Justice System and Infrastructure Review Committee."

We are pleased the County Administrator has changed her mind about recommending establishment of yet another Commission to engage in study might simply result in further delay and that she instead proposes to get right to work with her new Justice System and Infrastructure Review Committee.

Additionally, we are pleased that the County Administrator's proposal includes a commitment to gather and report data relating to the Jail, bail, and recidivism; to find a way to reduce the Jail population; and to provide better mental and behavioral health services, especially for those suffering from mental illness, substance use disorders, poverty, and homelessness.

We also are pleased the County Administrator proposes to have her new Committee work on data collection and reporting regarding the overall jail population, money bail, failures to appear, and recidivism.

The NAACP believes data collection and reporting should be the most urgent deliverable and that it should be achieved within calendar year 2024. The NAACP urges that data reporting should include information about racial and ethnic disparities and that a specific goal of the new committee should be to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the jail population so that our community, whose population is only 4% African American, does not continue to have a Jail population that is 12% is African American.

We have all heard the saying, "What gets measured gets done." We hope this Board will ask the County Administrator to have her committee commence data reporting by the end of this calendar year 2024, and to have her committee identify specific, measurable goals not only to reduce the Jail population but also to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheree Meeks, President  
Amelia Craig Cramer, Vice President and Criminal Justice Committee Chair

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