

# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 5-3-22 ITEM NO. RA 20

Good morning Chair Bronson, Vice Chair Grijalva, and Supervisors,

My name is Amelia Cramer. I am a member of your Pima County Safety + Justice Community Collaborative.

I am pleased to see the proposed revisions to the IGA for Initial Appearance Judges and urge you to approve the amended IGA, which will make it effective for the next nine months.

I hope whichever Supervisor might move to approve approve the amended IGA will include as a part of your motion a requirement for the Superior Court to gather data during the upcoming nine months to be presented before any subsequent renewal of the IGA, and a requirement that such data also be presented by the Court as part of its budget submittal for next year.

Such data should include the numbers of people arrested each month who are not able to pay the bail imposed upon them by their Initial Appearance judge and who thus are stuck in the jail for more than 24 hours - and the number of those people whose alleged crimes are nonviolent misdemeanors or simple felony drug possession for personal use. The data should be broken down by race and ethnicity to reveal any disparities and disproportionalities.

Additionally, the data should include the number each month of individuals brought before an Initial Appearance judge after being arrested for a violent felony crime committed while they were on pretrial release for an earlier violent felony crime.

Finally, I hope you will require the Courts and the Sheriff to present as a part of their budget submittals next year a strategic plan for the use of pretrial electronic monitoring and other more cost effective and more humane methods to address failures to appear for court hearings.

The unnecessary over-use of incarceration is exacerbating our community-wide crisis of people suffering from mental and behavioral health disorders - and is increasing, not decreasing, the numbers of crimes committed in our community. As I have said before, locking up a person in a jail cell NOT because they have acted violently or pose a risk to public safety, but ONLY as a way to get them to show up for their next court hearing, is a 16th century solution to a 21st century problem.

We can do better. We need to do better.

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