

**Brittany Fowlkes**

**From:** isaiah kortright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 2:30 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public Comments for BOS Meeting 2/20/2024

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello Pima County Board of Supervisors and Supporting Staff,

i commend you all and agree with the decision not to put forward the recommendations for a new jail or expanding the current jail to increase its capacity.

The issues inherent in incarceration (abuse, neglect, poor medical care, suicidality, poor conditions, and trauma) will never be improved no matter how "nice", modern, or "environmentally conscious" a building there is.

Our efforts must be put towards addressing the root causes of 'crime'. We need to invest in our communities- housing, wellbeing of students and teachers in schools, public health, access to nature, and overdose prevention sites.

i implore you all to listen to the most impacted people and center our needs.

Blessings,

isaiah kortright  
 Sent from my iPhone

FEB 20 24 AM 06:06 PC CLK OF 90

65

**Brittany Fowlkes**

**From:** Brenda Marts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 8:21 PM  
**To:** District3; District5; COB\_mail; District1; District2; District4  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 11

FEB 20 2024 AM 08:02 PCLVDF 99

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

I can not believe I am writing about the Adult Detention Center but here goes.

In regards to the Blue Ribbon Commission Report. "The Commissioners received information and observed firsthand examples of maintenance and repair issues, leaks, cracked walls, peeling wall facades, floor settling, pipes and plumbing issues, water leaks and flooding. " There are reports of filth, vandalism and abuse by inmates. Under staffing is an issue. Now we have a big problem and need answers. Our Pima County Adult Detention Center is falling apart and understaffed. The big question is to fix what we have or build a new one?? One way or the other we (taxpayers) are going to pay for it. We are going to spend 600-900 million on this to fix the years of neglect. Our County Administrator wrote in a memo "County officials should focus on making safety repairs and boost funding for healthcare at the county jail, instead of large-scale renovations or building a new jail, until they have more information." What more do you need to get informed about? The Blue Ribbon Commission was empanelled Dec. 2022. The Commission is composed of ten members that have spent 11 months building an in-depth 270 page report that says we need repair or replacement. It doesn't matter how many inmates are incarcerated, the building needs to be prioritized. The administrator suggests a new commission to see about lowering the jail's population. That was the stated goal of the last commission.

The Pima County Supervisors are spending large sums on alternative actions to avoid locking criminals up. I would agree to that plan if it kept us (the taxpayer) safe. So far there is no proof that it is working, but the push is to keep criminals out of jail by using The Safety and Justice Challenge <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/> approach and millions of dollars.

We should hold off on the Richard Elias-Mission Library Expansion and Renovation contract amount \$7,168,471.00 (item #24) for now and fix the Jail. We could also cut back on the Community and Workforce Development programs, affordable housing programs and the many millions spent on illegal immigrants housing, health, food and transportation.

I do not see safer streets today so I think we should go ahead and fix the jail and hold criminals accountable as a priority.

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** robert alcaraz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 10:08 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Fix our Pima County Jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

02-17-2024 10:08 PM

I can not believe I am writing about the Adult Detention Center but here goes.

In regards to the Blue Ribbon Commission Report. "The Commissioners received information and observed firsthand examples of maintenance and repair issues, leaks, cracked walls, peeling wall facades, floor settling, pipes and plumbing issues, water leaks and flooding." There are reports of filth, vandalism and abuse by inmates. Under staffing is an issue. Now we have a big problem and need answers. Our Pima County Adult Detention Center is falling apart and understaffed. The big question is to fix what we have or build a new one?? One way or the other we (taxpayers) are going to pay for it. We are going to spend 600-900 million on this to fix the years of neglect. Our County Administrator wrote in a memo "County officials should focus on making safety repairs and boost funding for healthcare at the county jail, instead of large-scale renovations or building a new jail, until they have more information." What more do you need to get informed about? The Blue Ribbon Commission was empanelled Dec. 2022. The Commission is composed of ten members that have spent 11 months building an in-depth 270 page report that says we need repair or replacement. It doesn't matter how many inmates are incarcerated, the building needs to be prioritized. The administrator suggests a new commission to see about lowering the jail's population. That was the stated goal of the last commission.

The Pima County Supervisors are spending large sums on alternative actions to avoid locking criminals up. I would agree to that plan if it kept us (the taxpayer) safe. So far there is no proof that it is working, but the push is to keep criminals out of jail by using The Safety and Justice Challenge <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/> approach and millions of dollars.

We should hold off on the Richard Elias-Mission Library Expansion and Renovation contract amount \$7,168,471.00 (item #24) for now and fix the Jail. We could also cut back on the Community and Workforce Development programs, affordable housing programs and the many millions spent on illegal immigrants housing, health, food and transportation.

I do not see safer streets today so I think we should go ahead and fix the jail and hold criminals accountable as a priority.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Jane Orient [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 2:36 PM  
**To:** District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Adult Detention Center

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Public safety requires that criminals be confined away from citizens. This should be one of the highest priorities. Certainly higher than paying for illegal migrants. We already have reports of the results of years of neglect:

water leaks and flooding, cracked walls, peeling wall facades, floor settling, pipes and plumbing issues, filth, and vandalism. Staffing needs to be adequate to control dangerous and damaging behavior by inmates.

--  
Jane M. Orient, MD  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FEB 20 24 PM 08:02 PC CLK OF 90

29

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Isaac Kim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 3:19 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No Jail!!!!

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Isaac Kim and I am a resident of Pima County.

While I support the review of our current jail conditions and practices, it is not news to the people of Pima county (or the United States for that matter) that the Pima county jail is one of the DEADLIEST in the country. No amount of funding will stop this if we do not address the mismanagement, the corruption, and the misuse of PUBLIC FUNDS that are being diverted to our county jail.

I strongly believe we need a reformation of our current situation/ Funding should be funneled into creating/supporting programs that address the mental and physical health needs of our community, residents or not! The people who find themselves within Pima County should feel taken care of and not left to LITERALLY DIE by the neglectful hands of our County. That is the meaning of community!

It is apparent from the Blue Ribbon Commission's proposal of \$800 million that the "funds" exist. Instead of using those funds to hurt, lets use them to help people.

Regards,

Isaac Kim

REC'D 20240805 PCD/KFB

8

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Tiera Rainey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 2:12 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Statement in Support of No New Jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Administrator Leshar and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing a statement in support of some of the conclusions drawn in Administrator Leshar's February 13, 2024 memo. As a local abolitionist organization the Tucson Bail Fund would never advocate for any increased funding into a carceral facility, however, we think it is a step in the right direction for the BoS to move away from the idea that a new jail or increased bed capacity will address the crises of in-custody deaths. We agree that this is a multifaceted problem that **REQUIRES** comprehensive decarceration in order to alleviate the crux of the problems facing the Pima County Jail. However, I will raise that an effort solely focused on decarcerating those with non-violent misdemeanors will fail. Decarceration must also consider those with felony charges if Pima County actually wants to meaningfully reverse its abysmal record of in-custody deaths.

I must also insist that we move away from any model that seeks to make the jail something that it is not, a service provider. The hundreds of millions of dollars being proposed for a new jail would be better spent on interventions we know would be more fundamentally impactful to disrupting the cycle of criminalization including the creation of low-barrier affordable housing.

The community wants better for Tucson. We know that pouring more money into cages does not provide the outcomes that so many are claiming they desire. A larger and newer jail does not make our community safer but rather increases the cycle of poverty, trauma, and violence. We cannot incarcerate our way out of houselessness and substance use disorders. Pima County has the opportunity to rise to the great needs being demonstrated and create substantial policies and community resources that seek to address root causes than wasting more money on bottomless "non-solutions."

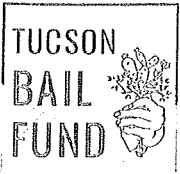
-Tiera Rainey

**Tiera Rainey** (She/Her)  
*Executive Director*

[REDACTED]

20240219 10:05:33 AM PST

9



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Ramona Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Thank You: No New Jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Thank you for NOT moving forward with the proposal for expanding jail capacity in Pima County. As a 74 year old retiree who has lived in Tucson for four years, I am very pleased that the community has decided to address root causes of incarceration instead of spending \$700,000 to One Billion Dollars to remodel and. expand jail capacity.

I have a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and worked for thirty years in that field, including crisis intervention in hospital emergency rooms and county jails with people who were depressed, suicidal, under the influence of alcohol and drugs, having a psychotic or paranoid episode, were homeless, and/or having a family crisis. Almost none of these conditions require or respond well to incarceration.

I applaud the desire by the County Supervisor and the community to identify alternatives to jail and instead spend their financial resources on programs that address root causes of incarceration. With adequate community resources we can keep people out of jail which is unfortunately a revolving door that punishes people for life instead of helping them. Tucson needs many more temporary safe shelters (half-way houses, homeless shelters, detox centers, and both inpatient and outpatient mental health centers) where individuals can be assessed and treated. It would be wonderful if we could now raise the original one billion dollars for capital investment in Tucson for these kinds of needs as we plan for decreasing the jail population. That would really put Tucson on the map!

As you make plans to move ahead, I hope you will include on your planning and visioning committees, many of the local resident experts who are already deeply engaged with programs that are addressing Tucson's social and medical needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona G.Smith  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

02  
FEB 20 2024 08:05 PM CUCF-BD



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Clarice Bales [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:51 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No new or bigger jail for Pima County

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Clarice, I'm a resident in Tucson, and I am asking the Pima County Board of Supervisors to not recommend a new or bigger jail. The millions that would be needed for this project should be directed towards supporting and creating existing programs that help support people and prevent crime before it happens. We should be trying our best to reduce the jail population by funding drug rehabilitation programs, mental health/trauma support, schooling, housing, and so much more.

New jails have been built across the country, or expanded upon, yet crime does not go away, because the causes that drive someone to steal or use drugs or whatever it may be, is still there.

Please vote to not recommend to expand or build a new jail.

Thank you,  
Clarice Bales  
Tucson, AZ 85705

FEB 20 24 AM 08:05 PC CLK/CF/DD

Q

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Cameron Hood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:35 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Regarding the jail

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To whom it may concern,  
Please do NOT move forward with expanding or remodeling the jail. I truly feel this money will be spent better across nearly every other Pima County concern.

Thank you,  
Cameron Hood  
[REDACTED]

08-10-2024 09:00:00 AM

CB

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Kelly Golden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No new jail or remodel

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Just want to email my support that city/county funds go toward community investment like health, housing, schooling, rehabilitation, mental health resources, etc. rather than remodeling or building a new jail/prison.

Thank you.

Kelly Rudolph  
Pima County voter

03-20-24 08:05:00 AM



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Ashley Sargent [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** NO NEW JAIL

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To whom it may concern-

I was so pleased to hear about the decision to move towards depopulating the Pima County jail and wanted to write in to continue those sentiments. I am currently finishing a Masters degree in which I studied incarceration among women in Arizona and was appalled when I heard about the proposal for a new jail in Pima County. To have Arizona be among another state to siphon funds to incarceration rather than community resources is disheartening, to say the least. Arizona has ranked highest in the nation for incarceration, number of children in foster care, juvenile detention, and lowest in education for many years- the link between these is not able to be ignored. Incarceration does not address the root cause of 'crime' as we know through countless studies, despite this, funds are still being funneled that way and it must be stopped. Safe and sustainable communities are not ones where we throw people in cages. Current legislation in both the House and Senate is working to expand who is deemed 'criminal' in the state of Arizona, an effort which is working in tandem with the expansion of state and privately funded prisons and jails. Arizonans see through the facade that public officials are pushing. We do not want our money to go towards more expensive jails and prisons. Our communities need resources, our schools need funding, people need healthcare and access to affordable housing. The research and data back up all claims to redistribute funds to community resources, we just need our public officials to listen. I urge you to continue to reject any and all sentiments to anything but decarceration of the jails. People need resources not to be locked in cages.

Best,  
Ashley Conger

FEB 20 24 10:05 PM CLK OF ED

(2)

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Lori M. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:01 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Concerned community member - regarding jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Thank you for NOT moving forward with the new jail/remodel to the current jail. I want to reiterate my concerns as a community member of Pima county that the issues we face will never be solved with more incarceration. We need to be investing in housing for ALL, public schools, community health programs, access to clean drinking water and bathrooms throughout the city and overdose prevention sites. Addressing these issues will make our community safer for ALL. Expecting a new jail or a remodeled jail to address these issues will only harm our community - not help it. Considering 70-80% of the Pima County Jail population is on pre-trial status (meaning - not charged with a crime) I beg you to look at reducing who is currently sitting in our jail. Too many people are harmed within our system because they cannot afford bail and end up taking plea deals that continue to hurt our community (ie: loss of jobs, child protective services often involved, huge burdens on family members of loved ones, etc. for those inside). Expecting the system to reform itself is a dangerous way to go about this since they benefit from having people in jail. I urge you to have members who are directly impacted be a part of creating solutions that are truly meaningful and transformational. Please DO NOT EXPAND/REMODEL the jail!

Thank you,

Lori Moore

03-01-2024 09:02 AM

9

**Brittany Fowlkes**

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**From:** JOHN POLLE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 3:58 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No new jail

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hi,

I was very happy to hear about the decision to NOT move forward with the recommendation to build a bigger "better" jail.

Poverty, houselessness, and mental illness should not be "treated" with imprisonment, but should be responded to with investments in housing, schools, and mental health, overdose prevention, and more.

And as we move forward, we need to continue to listen to those impacted directly by these issues.

Sincerely,  
John Polle

02-19-2024 08:00:00 PM



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Isabel S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No new jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I am so heartened by the recent recommendation of the Pima County Administrator to not pursue a new jail facility and urge the board of supervisors to heed her recommendation. This city needs to invest in its people, not in putting more of them in jail. Please spend that money on community needs, such as reducing the carceral population, more support for unhoused neighbors such as mobile showers, harm reduction programs. Fancy jail is still ultimately jail.

Isabel  
Ward 3 resident

02/19/2024 08:50:42 EST



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Angela DeSoto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:16 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** community member concerns

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

I agree with the decision to NOT move forward with the recommendations for a new jail or remodel to the current jail. These "solutions" only mask our community's real problems and will NOT improve our city at all. We need to focus on the root causes of crime and turn our focus to investing in schools, community health, overdose prevention sites, and the housing crisis. I urge you NOT to EXPAND OR REMODEL the jail!

Thank you,  
Angela DeSoto

RECEIVED  
FEB 20 2024  
08:09 PM  
COB\_MAIL

9



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Laura ruiz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:23 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public comment for upcoming board of supervisor's meeting

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Good afternoon,

I am Laura Ruiz and I live within district 3. I am pleased that the Pima County administrator recently declined to recommend a new county jail be built, or to expand the existing one. However, I would like more to be done to ensure we invest our taxpayer money in caring for our community instead of more carceral tactics.

For years community members have spoken on the issues present within our jails and the carceral system in general. Incarcerated people face poor medical care, abuse, isolation, neglect, etc. All of which contribute to creating further trauma and exacerbating whatever issues people were already struggling with when they were incarcerated. None of these issues will be fixed with a bigger or newer jail, as they are inherent aspects of carceral life.

The issues within our community such as houselessness, crime etc. are better addressed when looking at their root causes and investing in **accessible** community services instead of disappearing people within the jail population.

I encourage the board of supervisors to listen to those more directly impacted by incarceration on what actually works. Our community is creative and resilient, and we come with ideas and willingness to put in the work to make a community a safer and welcoming place for all of us -especially those more vulnerable.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Laura R (he/him)

FEB 20 24 PM 05:10 PC CLK DE ED

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Corrina Echerivel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:29 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No jail deaths

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

- Agree with the decision NOT to put forward the recommendations for a new jail/bigger population growth
- The issues inherent in incarceration (abuse, neglect, poor medical care, suicidality, poor conditions, trauma) will never be improved no matter how nice a building there is
- The only way to address root causes of 'crime,' houselessness, etc is to invest in the community verdose (housing, schools, community health, prevention sites)
- LISTEN to impacted people

FEB 20 24 PM 08:10 POC/KCF/BD

2

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Matisse Rosen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Regarding a decision opposing the new jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my agreement with a decision to not put forward a recommendation for a new jail, nor to approve population growth in the current jail. The issues inherent to incarceration, including neglect, abuse, suicide ideality, trauma and more will never be improved no matter how improved the facilities are. The only way to address the root causes of crime, houselessness, neglect, poverty, etc. is to invest in community created solutions, such as housing proposals and community supportive solutions, such as housing, community health, overdose prevention sites and more. I will see you all tomorrow morning at the board of supervisors meeting to express my gratitude for your decision to not put forward recommendations for a new jail or a higher population in the current jail, and to move alongside you as we continue listen to the people impacted most by these decisions.

Best,  
Matisse Rosen

FEB 20 24 AM 09:10 PC CLK DE-3D

09

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** molly block [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Regarding a decision opposing the new Pima County Jail :: BOS

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my agreement with the decision to NOT put forward a recommendation for a new jail nor population growth in the current jail.

The issues inherent in incarceration (abuse, neglect, poor medical care, suicidality, poor conditions, trauma, and more) will never be improved no matter how nice of a building the jail is. The only way to address the root causes of crime, houselessness, neglect, poverty, is to invest in community-supportive solutions such as housing, education, community health, overdose prevention sites, and more.

I'll see you all tomorrow morning at the Board of Suprvisors meeting to express my gratitude for your decision to not put forward recommendations for a new jail or higher population, and to move alongside as we continue to listen to the people impacted most by these decisions.

Warmly, with gratitude,

~~~  
molly Block  
*Ordained Kohenet*  
*Live Captioning Services*  
(she/her pronouns)  
i am molding my home on Tohono O'odham land

with the way i choose to mold home, I spend my time nurturing relationships around me and within me, along with through the computer. because of this, please expect a response within a week, **and** if your message is more time sensitive, feel free to send it again with that stated in the subject (or call/text) :)

RECEIVED  
FEB 20 2024  
PIMA COUNTY  
JAIL

29

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Pettifer, Amy Louise [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public comment submission

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hi there,

I'm a resident of Division 5 writing in opposition of any expansion of carceral space in Pima County, in particular to the proposed expansion of the current Pima County Jail or building a new jail. There is ample evidence proving that incarceration only perpetuates cycles of poverty, houselessness, mental and physical health issues and continues to kill our community. No amount of extra money spent on health services inside the jail will improve conditions, because incarceration itself is the driver of social issues. Let's rather invest in our community through services that improve the quality of peoples' lives. No new jail, and close the Pima County Detention Centre!

**Amy Pettifer**

RECEIVED  
FEB 20 2024 08:10 PCD KCEB



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Tate Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Fund community care not incarceration

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I wanted to share my strong support for the decision to NOT put forward recommendations for a new jail or expanding the incarcerated population in Pima County. The only way to deal with the root causes of crime is to fund social services, care, support for those who are struggling. Spending \$800 million on a jail and putting more people in cages only leads to more mental illness, drug abuse, repeat crime, suicide and trauma, keeping incarcerated people in cycles of pain and poverty and costing the community even more money. Thank you for all of your work and your time.

Tate Williams  
Tucson, AZ 85709

FEB 20 24 PM 08:10 POC/KDF:BD

8

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Cynthia Maxwell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:43 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No New Jail!

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Please listen to community members regarding this issue.

A new jail will not address the issues we face in our community, just as our current jails fail to address the inherent issues of incarcerations such as abuse, neglect and so much more! We must invest in our community, not in jails!

Thank you,  
Cindy Maxwell

FEB 20 24 AM 09:10 PC CLK OF BD

2

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**From:** Sasha [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:45 PM

**To:** COB\_mail

**Subject:** No new jail!

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hey there,

I am emailing in preparation for the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow morning. I can't make it to the meeting but would like to express my agreement with the decision recently made to NOT put forward recommendations for a new jail and/or increased population growth of the Jail. The issues inherent in incarceration (abuse, neglect, poor medical care, suicidality, poor conditions, trauma) will never be improved no matter how nice a building there is. It will be neglected over time anyways, just like the current one. The only way to address the root causes of crime, homelessness and addiction is to invest in the community by way of housing equity, schooling, community health services, overdose prevention sites, and issues such as systemic racism in our society. We need to continue to listen to those who have been most impacted by the criminal justice system and more disenfranchised in our communities.

Thank for you your time,

Sincerely,  
Sasha Timpson (Tucson resident)





## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Bethany Bones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Thank you for not recommending a bigger jail!

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello, I would like to thank you for not recommending a new bigger Pima County Jail. Bigger buildings cannot address the root causes of "crime" in our county and I am so glad that is being recognized. Please use this money instead to invest in our community (housing, schools, low barrier shelters, overdose prevention sites, etc) and continue listening to people who have been impacted by incarceration. They know more than we do about this topic.

Thank you,  
Bethany Bones, Pima County resident

FEB 20 24 10:31 PM CLK FEB 20 24 10:31 PM CLK FEB 20 24 10:31 PM CLK

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Camper Sanborn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public comment on jail proposal

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello, I am writing a quick comment here to say I do NOT support plans to create a new jail in Pima County or allocate funds to remodeling existing ones. I support plans to invest in the community and foundational issues that cause our citizens to become incarcerated. There are more humane and constructive ways to go about these issues than throwing money at the carceral system.

FEB 20 24 4:08 PM POC/KCF/ED

9

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Kelton Cuson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:51 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** comment

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To whom it may be concerned,

I am a resident of Pima county and I am writing in the opposition of a new jail, further incarceration and continuation of our prison system. All of these items do nothing but perpetuate harm and violence. Police further harass and murder the people in our communities. All the money that goes into incarceration could be better spent tackling the root of these causes — all the while saving us money! We need better and cheaper housing, food and the chance to live a life. It doesn't have to be like this, and you all have a choice, should we continue as is while people die on the street? or do something about it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Kelton

03/03/2024 10:04:22 AM



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Amanda Rutherford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:53 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No funding for new jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I am a longtime resident of Pima County and a local attorney who has worked in free legal services for our community for the past 5 years. I am writing to voice my support for the decision to NOT put forward recommendations for a new jail. I would deeply and sincerely urge our leadership to invest in public and affordable housing, mental health support programs for low income and unhoused people, and other programs and initiatives that focus on helping build resiliency and hope in our community instead of turning toward incarceration. The research is out there, and we know this is a more efficient, compassionate, effective strategy.

Thank you for your time,

--  
Amanda Rutherford  
*Attorney at Law*

FEB 20 24 11:18 AM PST

3

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Al Maria Paoli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 5:01 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** No new jail

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hey there,

I am emailing in preparation for the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow morning. I can't make it to the meeting but would like to express my agreement with the decision recently made to NOT put forward recommendations for a new jail and/or increased population growth of the Jail. The issues inherent in incarceration (abuse, neglect, poor medical care, suicidality, poor conditions, trauma) will never be improved no matter how nice a building there is. It will be neglected over time anyways, just like the current one. The only way to address the root causes of crime, houselessness and addiction is to invest in the community by way of housing equity, schooling, community health services, overdose prevention sites, and issues such as systemic racism in our society. We need to continue to listen to those who have been most impacted by the criminal justice system and more disenfranchised in our communities. Thank for you your time,

Al Maria Paoli  
They/Them/Theirs  
[REDACTED]

PC CLK FEB 20 2024 08:11

99

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Elizabeth Casey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 5:03 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 2/20 BOS Meeting

RECEIVED  
FEB 20 2024  
PCLK/CF/ED

9

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I'm a resident of Pima County and wanted to comment on the agenda item regarding the jail.

I applaud the Pima County Administrator's decision to not put forward either of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

I want to note a few points regarding the inherent issues with incarceration and the Blue Ribbon Commission's proposal, that will never be addressed with a 'nicer' or 'better' jail.

The structural issues apparent in the Pima County Jail were caused by lack of maintenance and neglect from the Sheriff's Department, as noted in a memo from Jan Leshner regarding 2021 audits of the facility. All of the knowledge and data we have just demonstrates that a new building would also quickly deteriorate and become just as deplorable as the current jail. This is not a problem that started with Sheriff Nanos. There is nothing to suggest that any future Sheriff will maintain a facility any better, and there are no actual methods to hold the Sheriff's Department accountable for lack of maintenance.

The structural issues inside the jail are not leading to the inhumane conditions. While it is evident that certain sections of the jail, like the towers, are extremely inhumane, the dehumanization, poor medical and mental health care, separation from social networks and families, loss of jobs, trauma, etc. are inherent in incarceration and will not be fixed with a new building.

The population does NOT have to increase. The Blue Ribbon Commission noted that most people in the jail are charged with felonies and thus must remain in the jail for safety reasons. However, data from the Safety and Justice Challenge note that many of these felonies are technical violations, like failure to appear and probation violations, which could easily be avoided with more programs, like group home, social workers, monetary assistance for court fees, better drug treatment programs, etc.

There is no evidence that a new building will fix any of the issues currently facing those inside the jail or our communities. Everything in the Blue Ribbon Commission reports is based on assumptions. However, we KNOW and have the data and evidence to demonstrate that incarceration will never be rehabilitative, will never address social issues, and will never actually help crime rates, and in fact a higher jail population will make many of these issues, like trauma, poverty, mental illness, drug use, and homelessness worse.

As a Vera Institute of Justice Report notes, "But however well-intentioned jail expansion may be-and no matter how much services improve as a result-the experience of isolating confinement in a facility the primary aim of which remains control, surveillance, and punishment will still be traumatic for people, intrinsically limiting the rehabilitative potential of a jail's new treatment capacity."

We must use this time as an opportunity to limit carceral expansion, lower the jail population, and invest in our communities, families, and children's future by funding schools, housing, overdose prevention sites, harm reduction, community mental health and medical clinics, community health workers, and social workers/navigators/advocates.

Thanks,  
Liz Casey

t

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**23250675**

[illegible]



## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Sean McConnell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 5:44 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Please DO NOT EXPAND/REMODEL the jail!

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

Thank you for NOT moving forward with the new jail/remodel to the current jail. I want to reiterate my concerns as a community member of Pima county that the issues we face will never be solved with more incarceration.

We need to be investing in housing for ALL, public schools, community health programs, access to clean drinking water and bathrooms throughout the city and overdose prevention sites. Addressing these issues will make our community safer for ALL.

Expecting a new jail or a remodeled jail to address these issues will only harm our community - not help it. Considering 70-80% of the Pima County Jail population is on pre-trial status (meaning - not charged with a crime) I beg you to look at reducing who is currently sitting in our jail. Too many people are harmed within our system because they cannot afford bail and end up taking plea deals that continue to hurt our community (ie: loss of jobs, child protective services often involved, huge burdens on family members of loved ones, etc. for those inside).

Expecting the system to reform itself is a dangerous way to go about this since they benefit from having people in jail. I urge you to have members who are directly impacted be a part of creating solutions that are truly meaningful and transformational.

Please DO NOT EXPAND/REMODEL the jail!

Thank you,

--  
Sean McConnell  
Smith Performance Center  
[REDACTED]

02/19/2024 11:04:02 AM

3

## Brittany Fowlkes

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**From:** Caroline Isaacs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:59 AM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** attachment re: jail discussion  
**Attachments:** Pima Jail Alternative Proposal FINAL.pdf

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Good morning,  
I neglected to attach this to my earlier email. Thank you,  
Caroline Isaacs

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Caroline Isaacs,

She/her/ella

*Executive Director,*

***Just Communities Arizona***



2

08:30:10.21180672.02 BB.1  
FEB 20 2024 PM 08:11 POC/KDE/BD

## Executive Summary

This paper was prepared by local advocates to assist members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors in evaluating proposed solutions to the dangerous and inhumane conditions in the county jail. It offers insight into what kinds of charges and decisions lead to bookings in the jail, sheds light on the reality of conditions of confinement and how best to improve them, and makes the case for a comprehensive path to safe and feasible reduction in the jail population.

Given the recommendations County Administrator Jan Leshner provided in her memo to the Board dated 2/13/24, we offer the following as a guide for the proposed new Commission to be formed to study alternatives to incarceration and population reduction strategies.

### Key findings:

- **Any proposed next steps must address the underlying problems in the jail.** How will the PCSO address understaffing and retention issues moving forward—regardless of what facility they are working in? How will the County hold the current for-profit contracted medical care provider for mismanagement, neglect, and deaths? No additional funding should be provided until there is a correction plan in place and meaningful consequences for failure to meet constitutional levels of care.
- The vast majority of people held in the jail are there for *non-violent offenses*. **87% of the jail population is people being held pretrial, meaning that they have not been convicted of a crime.**
- The leading booking charge in the Pima County Jail is a “miscellaneous” category (30%)—mostly **technical violations** including failure to appear, probation violations, prohibited possession of a weapon, disorderly conduct, and sex offender registration violation.
- While much has been made in the Blue Ribbon Commission’s report about the number of people held on felony offenses, a closer look reveals that these are almost all **non-violent crimes** related to theft, drug use, and the aforementioned “miscellaneous” technical violations (warrants and ‘failure to appear’).
- The obstructionist argument that it is “impossible” to safely and intentionally lower jail populations simply doesn’t hold water. **There is precedent here in Pima county of departments and agencies across the criminal justice system working together in a coordinated strategy to keep people out of jail—not once, but twice.** First through the SJC and secondly in response to COVID.
- The strategies developed under the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge have shown promise: **a 25% reduction in the jail population between 2014-2021. The project also produced a 35% reduction in jail bookings over the same time period.**
- There are a significant number of programs currently in place or in development on both the County and City level designed to reduce the jail population by strengthening community support services, preventing crime, deflecting/diverting people from jail and

into services, and amending punitive policies and practices at multiple levels of the criminal justice system. To our knowledge, there has not been a comprehensive assessment of the collective impact of these programs.

- Fully funding the evidence-based models that are already underway in our community (listed above) with a complementary investment ensuring that the auxiliary services these programs depend on—behavioral health, counseling, drug treatment, supportive housing, employment assistance, case management—are adequate and accessible to everyone who needs them would be an investment that would yield a very different result.

### **Recommendations**

1. Place the process for expanding or replacing the Pima County Jail indefinitely on hold pending the completion of the other recommendations below.
2. Conduct an independent financial and performance audit of the Pima County Sheriff's office to determine how the physical conditions of the jail were permitted to deteriorate so severely without intervention. Investigate how funding allocated by the Board of Supervisors to correct these problems was spent.
3. As per County Administrator's recommendation, the new commission, directed by Pima County Justice Services, should conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of avenues for jail population reduction based on the information in this paper as well as any other relevant sources. At a minimum, this should address:
  - a. An impact assessment on every existing initiative created through the SJC and projected impacts on future jail population if fully funded and implemented over the next 5 years. Honest assessment of where these programs are not successful and an analysis of how to correct problems.
  - b. An impact assessment on the initiatives the City of Tucson has undertaken through the Community Safety Health and Wellness Department and projected impacts on future jail population if fully funded and implemented over the next 5 years
  - c. A needs/gaps analysis of what supportive services, ancillary services or community-based supports are needed to ensure jail reduction efforts are successful
  - d. Develop clear requirements for all related departments/agencies (including defense, prosecution, judges, court staff, law enforcement, probation) and realistic consequences (i.e. loss of county funding) for failure to cooperate

### **Background**

In 2022, Sheriff Chris Nanos addressed the Pima Board of Supervisors complaining that the jail was in “a full-blown crisis” due to understaffing, overcrowding and deteriorating infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> In the memo Nanos submitted to the Board, he specifically cites:

- Correctional officer staffing decreased by 30% and the attrition rate exceeds every effort to recruit, hire, and train staff
- Overtime exceeds 5,900 hours per pay period with staff and deputies mandated to work 16-hr shifts
- The jail is “literally falling apart” and “is beyond repair.”<sup>2</sup>

Current issues in the Pima County Jail, which have persisted for years and have led to a horrific rate of in-custody deaths and substandard conditions for everyone inside, will not improve with a new building. They will not improve with more space, a reconfiguration of the jail’s supervision model, or more natural light. The issues inside the Pima County Jail are issues of incarceration itself—of services that are impossible to administer on carceral timelines, of a Sheriff’s Department that has destroyed this relatively new facility out of negligence, of nationwide shortages of jail staff—issues that follow from repeated investments into a failing system.

**As we invest in incarceration, expanding space and allowing for the unmitigated growth of jail populations, we dig ourselves deeper into a non-solution.** Jail healthcare will not improve, not in the least because the County’s current provider has consistently failed to provide adequate care and no penalty has changed their behavior. Understaffing and all its consequences—lack of supervision, cutting corners, failure to maintain the space— will persist. Across the country people are fleeing jobs in corrections, regardless of the jail’s condition.

A proposed solution to the conditions inside this jail that does not address any causal factor, and instead only proposes to put more people in harm’s way, means only that the harms wrought by this jail will continue at an increasing rate. It means that the rate of jail deaths will increase, that the setbacks suffered by thousands of Pima County residents sent to the jail each year will entrench them in cycles of criminalization. To build a billion-dollar jail to address any issue identified by the County and its residents is a damning mistake; to build it without an honest accounting of the consequences and myriad alternatives is negligence.

People inside the Pima County Jail do not need to be there. We can take steps, as we did quickly and in coordination during the Covid-19 public health emergency, to divert people from the jail and into services. The rate of deaths inside the jail and the evident inadequacy of incarceration, which is plunging our community deeper into crisis, are likewise a public health emergency. The

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<sup>1</sup> *Green Valley News*, “Pima County Sheriff Seeks Solutions for Jail ‘in full blown crisis.’, December 14, 2022 [https://www.gvnews.com/news/pima-county-sheriff-seeks-solutions-for-jail-in-full-blown-crisis/article\\_71ae4fe6-7b2b-11ed-bc38-47e68c8d3047.html](https://www.gvnews.com/news/pima-county-sheriff-seeks-solutions-for-jail-in-full-blown-crisis/article_71ae4fe6-7b2b-11ed-bc38-47e68c8d3047.html)

<sup>2</sup> Pima Co Sheriff Chris Nanos, memo to Pima County Board of Supervisors, December 5, 2022. Accessed 2-13-24 at: <https://pima.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11500373&GUID=5FE57571-8654-4CB7-BEBB-65F60B64D38C>

jail population, 87% of whom are legally innocent, being held before trial, most of whom are being held on nonviolent charges, can and should be examined for opportunities to decarcerate.

The jail population is overwhelmingly experiencing physical and mental illness, as well as addiction. These trends are predicted to worsen. We have every opportunity now to make a speedy, cost-effective intervention in the trajectory of our County's future instead of consigning ourselves to billions of dollars and many years wasted.

### **Jail Population**

Historically, the population inside the Pima County Jail has fluctuated, ranging between 1,330 people at its lowest in 2000 to 2,037 people at its highest in 2013.<sup>3</sup> While the Jail's population now typically sits around 1,800 people daily, it dipped below the average again in 2020-22 when institutional partners made policy decisions to divert people from the Jail due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Over those years, the population of the Jail sat at 1,570 in 2020 and 1,630 in 2021.<sup>4</sup>

In May of 2023, at the request of the Pima County Adult Detention Center (PCADC) Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC), the Operations Working Group produced a jail population projection into the year 2044, reviewing past years' jail population data and Pima County population projections.<sup>5</sup> However, this projection excluded data from the years 2020-22, when the aforementioned Covid-19-related policies resulted in a population reduction.<sup>6</sup> Instead, this projection took into account actual jail population changes between 2000-19, estimating that the jail population would sit at 2,637 by the year 2044.<sup>7</sup> This population would require 3,033 beds to allow for the Jail to remain at the requisite 85% capacity.<sup>8</sup>

While the BRC's charter describes its role as assessing jail operations, the facility's current condition, and funding options available for possible renovations, its production of a population projection in May of 2023 served as the basis for a new conversation about drastically expanding the jail. Indeed, the early public conversation, as well as Pima County Sheriff Nanos' initial proposal to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for a new jail, centered on improving crumbling infrastructure inside the jail and its impact on staff and people incarcerated.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Operations Working Group: Report #1 Inmate Populations and Space Criteria PCADC Blue Ribbon Commission (May 15, 2023) at 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> Pima County Sheriff's Department: Additional Data Requested by the Pima County Jail Blue Ribbon Commission (May 1, 2023)

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Craig Smith, KGUN9, *Pima County Sheriff urges Supervisors to consider sales tax proposal for new jail*, (Dec. 6, 2022),

<https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/pima-county-sheriff-urges-supervisors-to-consider-sales-tax-proposal-for-new-jail>.

The BRC's population assessment offers a high-level overview of jail population by housing security level and felony versus misdemeanor booking charge.<sup>10</sup> By this summary, "92% of those in the PCADC were being held on at least one felony charge [on a sample day in January 2023]."<sup>11</sup> In its final report, the BRC observed that "Commonly, jail population reduction efforts focus on a high volume of individuals charged with low-level misdemeanor crimes, as was the case in Pima County. However, those with low-level charges almost always do not consume many jail beds because of their short length of stay. Inmates charged with more serious crimes consume more jail beds."<sup>12</sup> *However, the conflation of non-misdemeanor charges with "more serious" crimes is not necessarily born out by PCADC booking data.*

By the Sheriff's Department survey of a sample day at the jail in 2023, 1,595 people were being held on at least one felony charge, 68 people on a misdemeanor, and 25 people on no underlying offense.<sup>13</sup> **As much as 87% of the jail population at any given time is people being held pretrial, meaning that they have not been convicted of a crime** and may not have even started the adjudicatory process.<sup>14</sup>

A deeper look at booking data reveals that the **leading booking charge in the Pima County Jail is one of a "miscellaneous" category (30%)—mostly technical violations** including failure to appear, probation violations, prohibited possession of a weapon, disorderly conduct, and sex offender registration violation.<sup>15</sup>

Of the felony charges represented in bookings data, a sample reviewed in late 2023 showed the majority are burglary, theft, robbery, or embezzlement, followed by failures to appear in the first degree.<sup>16</sup> 55% of people in the Pima County Jail in a survey of bookings in 2023 had no violent charge, felony or misdemeanor, on their booking.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Populations and Space Criteria at 2.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Final Report and Recommendations, Pima County Adult Detention Center Blue Ribbon Commission, Feb. 6, 2024, at 6.

<sup>13</sup> Pima County Sheriff's Department's Data Requested by the Pima County Jail Blue-Ribbon Commission, (Apr. 11, 2023) at 24, <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/2e6a29bc-fe31-487e-8217-e45242dacddd>.

<sup>14</sup> Jail Blue Ribbon Commission Data Request, Sara Lomayesva, Dec. 20, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> District 1 Data Request: PCADC Snapshot, Sarah Lomayesva, Dec. 14, 2023 at 3.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>17</sup> District 1 Data Request at 1.

**Table 2 – Number of bookings by felony/misdemeanor and leading charge.**

|                    |                                       |           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Felony</b>      |                                       | <b>20</b> |
|                    | Burglary/Robbery/Theft/Embezzlement   | 6         |
|                    | Miscellaneous                         | 5         |
|                    | Failure to Appear 1st Degree          | 4         |
|                    | Fugitive Warrant                      | 1         |
|                    | Drugs                                 | 4         |
|                    | DUI                                   | 3         |
|                    | Assault/Kidnapping                    | 1         |
|                    | Criminal Damage/Property Damage/Arson | 1         |
| <b>Misdemeanor</b> |                                       | <b>16</b> |
|                    | Miscellaneous                         | 7         |
|                    | Failure to Appear 2nd Degree          | 3         |
|                    | Criminal Trespassing 2nd Degree       | 1         |
|                    | Disorderly Conduct                    | 1         |
|                    | Fail to Comply with Court Order       | 1         |
|                    | Probation Violation                   | 1         |
|                    | Assault/Kidnapping                    | 6         |
|                    | Drugs                                 | 3         |

**Pima County has proven that coordinated efforts to reduce jail populations can work.**

While the Blue Ribbon Commission has been directed to only study the feasibility of rebuilding or expanding the jail, there is a third option that is more cost effective and will have a greater impact on community safety overall—reducing the jail population.

Two recent efforts have already proven effective in reducing the jail population: The MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge and the County’s response to COVID.

**MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge**

Launched in 2015, this grant program was directed at reducing racial disparities in jail populations. The model was designed to bring different agencies and departments together to share information and collaborate on specific strategies to reduce incarceration. These departments have historically worked in silos, if not in direct opposition to one another. For example, both the public defender and the County Attorney were at the table, as well as law enforcement, probation, pretrial services, and the courts.



Pima County received a planning grant (\$150,000) in 2015 and was one of 10 sites selected for Implementation (\$1.5 million) in 2016. The county was awarded an additional \$1.8 million in 2018 for a Phase III of the project, and a joint award of \$500,000 for a collaboration with the YWCA for a “Focused Race Equity Cohort” in 2021.

The Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) approach in Pima County combined the following strategies:

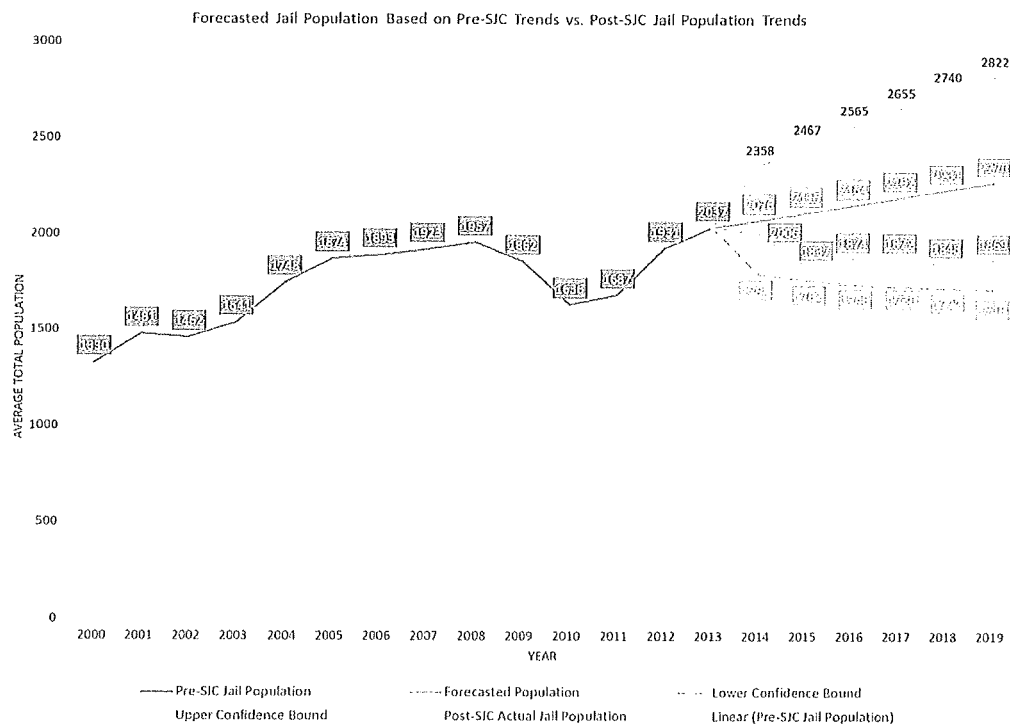
- Pretrial assessment and community supervision (Pretrial Services)
- Prebooking Modular: a facility outside the jail intake which screens certain misdemeanors for release prior to booking (Pretrial Services)
- Adult Probation Modifications to Petitions to Revoke and Other Processes (Adult Probation)
- Law Enforcement Deflection (Tucson Police Department): Created Mental Health Support Team, Substance Use Response Team and Homeless Outreach Team and coordinate with crisis mental health and drug treatment services
- Supportive Treatment and Engagements Program (STEPS) Court: 3-6 mo pre-indictment diversion program. Release at first appearance.
- Jail Population Review (JPR) Committee: Identify individuals (non-violent, non-dangerous, eligible charges) who are likely to be released anyway – and expedite release
- Warrant Resolution (Combined effort of multiple County and City justice agencies)
- Community Engagement (Justice Services, multiple community partners)<sup>18</sup>

**The combined impact of these interventions was a 25% reduction in the jail population between 2014-2021. The project also produced a 35% reduction in jail bookings over the same time period.**

The chart below was provided by Pima County Justice Services to the Blue Ribbon Commission:

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<sup>18</sup> <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/8b40ff64-5c4c-4bfa-a689-cc3496f6602c?cache=1800>



The blue line represents the actual jail population before SJC strategies were implemented in 2014. The green line represents the actual jail population after SJC strategies implementation. The orange and yellow lines represent a range (upper and lower range), of what the jail population would have been without these interventions. The chart deliberately omits 2020 and afterward because the impact of COVID was so outsized.

### Impact of System-Wide Coordinated Changes in Procedure in During COVID

The vulnerability of incarcerated people to COVID outbreaks drove drastic changes in policing. In March of 2020, both Tucson Police and Pima County Sheriff’s deputies were directed to write people detained for minor crimes tickets but not transport them to jail whenever possible. Officers and deputies were also instructed to only arrest or cite people when the offense threatens public safety in order to reduce their face-to-face contact with community members.<sup>19</sup>

Fears about exposure of law enforcement to the virus also resulted in a temporary directive to sheriff’s deputies suggesting that officers “evaluate the necessity of law enforcement on-site

<sup>19</sup> Tucson officers citing minor offenders instead of taking them to jail to reduce coronavirus risk, Arizona Daily Star, March 27, 2020.

[https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-officers-citing-minor-offenders-instead-of-taking-them-to-jail-to-reduce-coronavirus-risk/article\\_7c4ddcdf-b552-5246-8bee-ff294068d461.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-officers-citing-minor-offenders-instead-of-taking-them-to-jail-to-reduce-coronavirus-risk/article_7c4ddcdf-b552-5246-8bee-ff294068d461.html)

activity” before conducting a traffic stop or a field interview. The Tucson Police Department made a similar effort to reduce issuing citations, directing officers not to pull people over for speeding unless it’s excessive, reckless or the officer suspects the driver is impaired. TPD also held back on serving arrest warrants for non-violent misdemeanor crimes.<sup>20</sup>

December 2021, Pima County Attorney Laura Conover sent an order to the law enforcement agencies in Southern Arizona to refer low level drug offenders to treatment rather than jail. Conover said, “Effective immediately, the Pima County Attorney’s Office will decline to charge people arrested for simple drug possession, paraphernalia, or related personal-use incidents, in order to prevent transporting them to the Pima County jail and risking their health, the health of jail staff, and the health of the interior jail population.”<sup>21</sup>

Pima County Superior court suspended jury trials for almost a year and did not hold any in-person hearings. Many cases were handled telephonically.

The result was a drastic reduction in the jail population in a relatively short time frame. The Pima County jail went from 1,869 to 1,570 people between 2019-2020. That’s a **15% reduction in a single year**.

The obstructionist argument that it is “impossible” to safely and intentionally lower jail populations simply doesn’t hold water. **There is ample precedent in this very county of departments and agencies across the criminal justice system working together in a coordinated strategy to keep people out of jail—not once, but twice.**

Given the positive outcomes already achieved through the Safety + Justice Challenge, the potential cost savings and cost avoidance of new jail construction, and the fact that a myriad of programs are already under development to achieve this goal, reducing the jail population should be the *top priority* of Pima County leadership.

## Roadmap to Pima County Jail Population Reduction

**\*\*NOTE:** Much of the text below is taken directly from the cited source or minimally edited for consistency.

### **Programs Already In Place or In Development:**

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<sup>20</sup> Tucson officers citing minor offenders instead of taking them to jail to reduce coronavirus risk, Arizona Daily Star, March 27, 2020.

[https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-officers-citing-minor-offenders-instead-of-taking-them-to-jail-to-reduce-coronavirus-risk/article\\_7c4ddcdf-b552-5246-8bee-ff294068d461.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-officers-citing-minor-offenders-instead-of-taking-them-to-jail-to-reduce-coronavirus-risk/article_7c4ddcdf-b552-5246-8bee-ff294068d461.html)

<sup>21</sup> COVID may result in smaller jail population in Pima County, KOLD, Dec. 27, 2021,

<https://www.kold.com/2021/12/28/covid-may-result-smaller-jail-population-pima-county/>

### **MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge (SJC)**

As previously noted, the County has been engaged in a MacArthur Foundation Safety +Justice Challenge grant since 2015.

The Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) approach in Pima County combined the following strategies:

#### **Prebooking Modular:**

*A facility outside the jail intake which screens people accused of misdemeanors, those who have mental health or drug issues as well as other factors that could affect the likelihood they will show up for future court. It allows people to be released under pretrial supervision without having to spend the night in jail before getting the screening. Staff review the case, review the warrants and the circumstances for the failure to appear and also provide some direct education on the obligation a defendant has in the court process. This encourages individuals to appear in court without having to be held in jail pending their hearing.<sup>22</sup>*

#### **Adult Probation Modifications to Petitions to Revoke and Other Processes**

*The Probation Best Practices Committee developed a set of strategies, including eliminating automatic jail holds, which were previously placed on any probationer arrested for a new crime; expanding efforts to re-engage probationers who have stopped reporting or cooperating; ensuring fewer and shorter coterminous sentences, which is when a person is sent to jail until the end of their probation expiration; and a 10 percent reduction in petitions to revoke probation.<sup>23</sup>*

#### **Supportive Treatment and Engagements Program (STEPs) Court:**

*STEPs is a short-term, early intervention program. It is intended to divert nonviolent individuals struggling with drug addiction and mental health challenges away from the criminal justice system by promptly supplying targeted resources and treatment.*

*Immediately following admission to STEPs, participants will be screened by Superior Court pretrial diversion specialists. Their assessment results will pair them with focused services provided by approved community-based behavioral health agencies. The agencies will support and manage the individual's rehabilitation and recovery through substance use therapy, physical and mental health treatment, and, if needed, the provision of housing resources.<sup>24</sup>*

#### **Warrant Resolution**

*On August 1, 2022, the Adult Probation Department of the Superior Court in Pima County launched Clear My Warrant - an innovative felony warrant resolution plan that will help bring*

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<sup>22</sup>Local Jail Booking Process to Save Money, Keep Those Facing Minor Charges Out of Custody, Arizona Daily Star, [https://tucson.com/news/local/new-jail-booking-process-to-save-money-keep-those-facing-minor-charges-out-of-custody/article\\_5c5d32e6-4e83-52b4-8da1-5f2f79c8e2f8.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/new-jail-booking-process-to-save-money-keep-those-facing-minor-charges-out-of-custody/article_5c5d32e6-4e83-52b4-8da1-5f2f79c8e2f8.html).

<sup>23</sup>Caitlyn Schmidt, Pima County Criminal Justice Agencies Work Toward Reducing Jail Population, Arizona Daily Star, Jan. 12, 2019, [https://oldcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_6/File/Safety%20and%20Justice%20Challenge%20Grant/01.12.19%20AZ%20Daily%20Star%20-%20Pima%20County%20criminal%20justice%20agencies%20work%20toward%20reducing%20jail%20population.pdf](https://oldcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Safety%20and%20Justice%20Challenge%20Grant/01.12.19%20AZ%20Daily%20Star%20-%20Pima%20County%20criminal%20justice%20agencies%20work%20toward%20reducing%20jail%20population.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Arizona Superior Court in Pima County, Low-level offenders take high "STEPs" to success under Pima County Superior Court's new pre-indictment diversion program, Aug. 11, 2022, <https://www.sc.pima.gov/news/superior-court-launches-steps-pre-indictment-diversion-program/>.

probation absconders back into compliance without serving time in jail. *Clear My Warrant* is a no-court, no-jail program that will allow many the ability to clear their felony probation warrant without fear of being arrested and incarcerated. Individuals will contact the adult probation department, and, if eligible, have their warrant quashed and be reinstated to probation supervision without going to court or to jail.<sup>25</sup>

During the first few years of the challenge, outstanding warrants at Tucson City and Pima County Consolidated Justice courts plummeted, thanks to after-hours and weekend events funded by the challenge. To date, more than 5,000 people have been served during extended-hour events, including 2,090 who have had their warrants quashed. Almost 60 percent of the warrants that were in place in 2015 ha[d] been eliminated [by 2019].<sup>26</sup>

### **Jail Population Review Committee**

The Jail Population Review Committee identifies people with felony charges who pose little risk to public safety and may be safely released from the jail while awaiting appearances before the Court. Thirty members meet weekly and represent county and city agencies, community treatment providers, peer networks, supportive housing providers, and community members. Case management strategies are identified and recommended.<sup>27</sup>

From March 2019 to March 2021, over 1,200 individuals awaiting court appearances for felony charges were released through the efforts of the Jail Population Review Committee, either via modified conditions of release and community supervision or to residential housing or treatment. These releases equate to over **42,000 jail days reduced at a cost of \$127.20 per bed day**, adding up to savings in detention costs and a reduced average daily jail population.<sup>28</sup>

The stated goal of the SJC in Pima County in 2016 was “to reduce the jail population by 18%.”<sup>29</sup>

A progress report from Justice Services Director Kate Vesley submitted to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 2022 summarizes the progress of the program:

*There has been a 25 percent reduction in jail population from 2014 (average daily population of 2,136) to 2022 (average daily population of 1,616). This reduction is primarily attributed to reducing misdemeanor detention, implementing diversion and deflection programs, reducing the amount of time an individual (both pretrial and while on probation) spends in custody. During this period, Pima County’s overall population increased by approximately six percent.*<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Arizona Superior Court in Pima County, Fresh Approach Allows Eligible Absconders a Second Chance at Probation Success!, Aug. 11, 2022, <https://www.sc.pima.gov/news/adult-probation-introduces-clear-my-warrant-program/>

<sup>26</sup> [https://oldcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_6/File/Safety%20and%20Justice%20Challenge%20Grant/01.12.19%20AZ%20Daily%20Star%20-%20Pima%20County%20criminal%20justice%20agencies%20work%20toward%20reducing%20jail%20population.pdf](https://oldcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Safety%20and%20Justice%20Challenge%20Grant/01.12.19%20AZ%20Daily%20Star%20-%20Pima%20County%20criminal%20justice%20agencies%20work%20toward%20reducing%20jail%20population.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/our-network/pima-county-az/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/our-network/pima-county-az/>

<sup>29</sup> Pima County 2016 Safety + Justice Challenge Fact Sheet.

<https://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Pima-County-Safety-Justice-Challenge-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Memo from Pima County Administrator Jan Lescher to Board of Supervisors, July 18, 2022, “Update on Pima County’s Safety and Justice Challenge Grant Program.

<https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/5fb26eb2-745c-48fc-bc09-e77d38a463c4?cache=1800>

### **City of Tucson Community Safety Health and Wellness Program**

*“In 2020, the city of Tucson created the Community Safety, Health and Wellness program as a pilot program that would provide a civilian response to non-emergency 911 calls and to streamline community efforts to help people with mental health or substance use issues, or who are living in extreme poverty.”<sup>31</sup>*

*“The program has since grown into a 12-person team and serves as an umbrella to help coordinate the city’s four specialty teams, which include Housing First; the police department’s Mental Health Support Team and Community Outreach and Resource Engagement Units; and the fire department’s Tucson Collaborative Community Care team.”<sup>32</sup>*

*In addition to the program, plenty of other changes to the city’s emergency response system have been made, including:*

- *Embedding clinicians in its 911 communications center*
- *Creating a system that allows operators to transfer callers who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis to an appropriate nonprofit provider.*
- *The creation of a real-time alternative response team made up of medical staff and specialists who respond to calls that involve people in public areas who might be experiencing medical issues related to homelessness.*
- *The launch of a 311 program that connects residents to non-emergency services, including transportation issues, problems with parks and city services, code violations and even social service type needs.”<sup>33</sup>*

### **Deflection**

*In 2011, the county opened the Crisis Response Center (CRC), providing police access to emergency psychiatric and substance use services. Specifically, the CRC offers case management, individual and group therapies, peer supports, and medication education and management. The CRC is open 24/7 allowing officers a true alternative to jail as the primary mechanism for treatment and support for these populations any time of day. As such this work focuses on the CRC and its impact on reducing the jail population via police-led deflection.”<sup>34</sup>*

*Tucson Police Department (TPD) implemented a pre-arrest deflection program starting July 1, 2018. TPD’s Deflection Program allows patrol officers the discretion to “deflect” individuals with substance use problems such that officers encourage them to seek treatment and offer immediate transport to a treatment provider instead of arresting them. Under the Deflection Program, community members can approach a TPD facility or officer and request help connecting to a treatment provider without being charged for possession of drugs or paraphernalia – this is TPD’s Angel Program component of the Deflection Program. TPD’s*

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<sup>31</sup>[https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm\\_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

<sup>32</sup>[https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm\\_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

<sup>33</sup>[https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm\\_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://tucsonagenda.substack.com/p/the-daily-agenda-the-right-work-in?utm_campaign=email-post&r=1871cn&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

<sup>34</sup> Justice System Partners, “Examining the Impacts of Arrest Deflection Strategies on Jail Reduction Efforts, Pima County, AZ”

*Deflection Program's primary partnering substance misuse treatment provider is CODAC Health, Recovery & Wellness, Inc.<sup>35</sup>*

*An evaluation conducted by the Southwest Center for Research on Women at the University of Arizona reviewed a 3-year period during which patrol officers completed **2,129 deflections** away from arrest and to substance misuse treatment. Of these deflections, 965 additionally included immediate transport to a substance misuse treatment provider. The report concluded that deflection takes less time on average than arrest, resulting in lower personnel cost (salary and ERE) compared to making an arrest. This time difference translates to an average cost savings of \$13.40 per incident related to officer time, **a total saving of \$28,529 across all 2,129 deflection incidents.**<sup>36</sup>*

*The same report calculated cost savings in avoidance of jail time. In Arizona, the average cost to house someone in jail is estimated to be \$114 per day. If 20% (426) of the 2,129 deflection incidents would have resulted in one night in jail if not for the Deflection Program, then **the Deflection Program would have saved the local justice system \$48,564.** Justice system costs per arrest that results in conviction can be more than \$2,824 per event in 2021 dollars. If 10% (213) of the 2,129 deflection would have resulted in conviction of charges if not for the Deflection Program, then **the Deflection Program would have saved the local justice system \$601,512.**<sup>37</sup>*

*Finally, the SIROW report found significant reductions in subsequent substance misuse. "At 6 months post-incident, individuals who were deflected engaged in 6.6 fewer days of illegal drug use than those who had been arrested."<sup>38</sup>*

### **Place Network Investigations**

*In 2021, Tucson implemented a new pilot program called Place Network Investigations meant to target violent crime hotspots with long-term crime reduction. Now with just a year and a half of on-the-ground work, three locations are seeing almost an 80 percent reduction in gun violence.*

*The targeted locations are near:*

- *Grant and Alvernon*
- *Campbell and Bilby*
- *22nd and Prudence*

*Of those locations, **gun violence on 6200 S Campbell dropped by 80%, Grant/Alvernon saw a 75% reduction and 22nd/Prudence saw a 77% reduction.**<sup>39</sup>*

### **Tucson Collaborative Community Care (TC-3)**

*The Tucson Collaborative Community Care (TC-3) program, similar to "community para-medicine" initiatives that have been launched in some cities, is housed within the Tucson*

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<sup>35</sup> SIROW, 2022, "Costs, Cost Savings, and Effectiveness of a Police-Led Pre-Arrest Deflection Program"

<sup>36</sup> SIROW, 2022, "Costs, Cost Savings, and Effectiveness of a Police-Led Pre-Arrest Deflection Program"

<sup>37</sup> SIROW, 2022, "Costs, Cost Savings, and Effectiveness of a Police-Led Pre-Arrest Deflection Program"

<sup>38</sup> SIROW, 2022, "Costs, Cost Savings, and Effectiveness of a Police-Led Pre-Arrest Deflection Program"

<sup>39</sup><https://www.azpm.org/p/headlines/2023/9/7/217377-violent-crime-drops-in-tucson-hotspot-areas-due-to-pilot-program/>

*Fire Department. The program aims to reduce and prevent 911 calls by resolving frequent callers' underlying problems. The program started in 2016 after the fire chief learned that eleven Tucsonans had generated over 1,000 calls to 911 in one year. The chief directed the department to "go figure out what's wrong and help them." The program's philosophy is rooted in a shared understanding that high utilizers of 911 need specialized help and lack access to appropriate resources to address the real source of their problems.<sup>40</sup>*

*TC-3 program navigators with EMS, nursing, and behavioral health expertise try to connect individuals to the resources they need so that they stop calling 911. TC-3 is not a first response model in that navigators do not respond in real-time to 911 calls. The program runs Monday through Thursday during business hours. TC-3 investigates EMS referrals and follows up after the fact. For example, if an EMS professional responds to a 911 call at an address and notices that the individual's medications have run out, there's no food in the cabinets, or the resident is hoarding (which is a frequent issue in Tucson), they can alert TC-3 to conduct a follow up visit later.<sup>41</sup>*

*For example, one gentleman was calling 911 every day with back pain and being transported to the hospital every time he called. When the doctors asked about his home life and the condition of his bed, he always said it was fine. But when TC-3 investigated, they found that he was sleeping on cinder blocks with egg foam over it. TC-3 brought the man a mattress using a grant from Walmart. A follow up visit confirmed that "indeed was doing great. He was no longer taking pain medicine."<sup>42</sup>*

### **Barrios Seguros/Safe Neighborhoods: An Inclusive Approach to Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention**

*In 2022, the City of Tucson received a \$2million grant from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance "to expand and enhance their community violence intervention (CVI) efforts, building a focused deterrence strategy initially led and coordinated by TPD, but eventually run by nonprofit Homicide Survivors, Inc. (HSI), which gives voice to victims of violence and prevents future violence through focused street outreach. TPD will partner with other government agencies and nonprofits to use all available tools to deter potential offenders from committing violent crimes, while at the same time offering social services, such as help finding jobs or housing."<sup>43</sup>*

*"The goal is to implement a focused deterrence model using social network analysis to identify those at highest risk of violent offending. The CVI Board will then coordinate call-in sessions with these individuals, presenting them with a choice: 1) swift and certain justice for future offenses; or 2) opportunities and help turning their life around. Community focus groups will help develop the process and criteria for measuring success and the U of A research partners will evaluate both."<sup>44</sup>*

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<sup>40</sup> Policing Project, December 2023. "Tucson's Community Safety Response and Service Portfolio"

<sup>41</sup> Policing Project, December 2023. "Tucson's Community Safety Response and Service Portfolio"

<sup>42</sup> Policing Project, December 2023. "Tucson's Community Safety Response and Service Portfolio"

<sup>43</sup> <https://bia.ojp.gov/funding/awards/15pbja-22-gg-04713-cvip>

<sup>44</sup> <https://bia.ojp.gov/funding/awards/15pbja-22-gg-04713-cvip>



The information presented here is intended to offer an overview of some of the efforts already being made to reduce Pima County's jail population. As noted above, this information has been drawn from published sources and is far from an exhaustive list or full assessment of the potential impact of these programs over time. Further study is warranted to compile more detailed information and better assess the projected reduction in jail population that could result in the next 5-10 years if these programs were taken to scale, fully implemented, and adequately funded.

### **Bail Reform**

In 2021, the Tucson Community Bail Fund (then the Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund) released a report that laid out how Risk Assessment Tools (RAT) are, intentionally or inadvertently, holding poor people in jail longer than necessary or prudent.

*“Judges in Pima County are only following recommendations to release defendants without conditions or money bail 44.4% of the time and instead are recommending supervision conditions and/or detention. Individuals with release recommendations receive more punitive pretrial release conditions than what Pima County Pretrial Services recommends 53.9% of the time. People are being detained or required to submit to increased levels of pretrial supervision because of arbitrary judicial discretion.”<sup>45</sup>*

Legislative efforts, led by the NAACP, are underway to address the problem. *“For the 2023 legislative session, the NAACP drafted bail reform legislation. Unfortunately, although there were Republican co-sponsors, the judiciary chair refused to hear the bill in committee because it did not have a Republican primary sponsor. Efforts are currently underway to resolve this situation and move the bill forward now in 2024. The bill, limited in scope but important nonetheless, proposes the following.”<sup>46</sup>*

- *“Ensure that poverty does not keep parents in jail during the time before their trial when they are presumed innocent if they are only accused of a low-level misdemeanor. Home detention, with permission to leave home during certain hours for work, grocery shopping, and attending treatment and religious services, is an alternative to pretrial incarceration that can allow them to keep their jobs and continue to help support their families.”*
- *“Requiring the magistrate, before imposing money bail as a condition of pretrial release from jail, to assess the person's financial ability to pay, and endeavor to avoid implicit bias by being cognizant of the racial and ethnic disparities that historically have negatively affected communities of color.”<sup>47</sup>*

### **Gaps and Accountability**

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<sup>45</sup> TSCCBF, 2021. Pretrial Injustice: How the Pima County Judiciary is Using Pretrial Risk Assessments to Cage People

<sup>46</sup> NAACP Tucson Branch, Community Safety and Pretrial Justice Forum Report (1-30-2024)

<sup>47</sup> NAACP Tucson Branch, Community Safety and Pretrial Justice Forum Report (1-30-2024)

### **Pima County Sheriff's Department**

Last year, Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos took to the airwaves to criticize Pima County's jail reduction efforts. In a piece aired on KOLD, he blasted the MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge, saying "I saw that their efforts were a bit abysmal and said these aren't the promises you made. We are not meeting their expectations."<sup>48</sup>

Despite an initial dramatic decrease in jail population from 2014 to 2016, by 2017, the population had begun to inch higher. And, as noted elsewhere, the most significant decrease in jail population was a result of COVID. While today's jail population would be significantly higher without the intervention of SJC programs, it is still worth asking why the population has not steadily declined year after year as hoped.

The Pima County Sheriff's office has provided data to the Blue Ribbon Commission, but most of it represents the current status of arrests and bookings.

### **PCSD reported 19,681 arrests between April 2022 and March 2023**

**Of those, 19,624 were booked into jail, with the daily average number of bookings at 53.8<sup>49</sup>**

***In other words, 99.7% of the people PCSD arrests end up in jail.***

It would be interesting to see the long-term data and if there has been any indication of the number of arrests or jail bookings going down because of the Department's participation in the Safety and Justice Challenge since 2014.

For example, it does not appear that the Sheriff's department has adopted any of the population reduction strategies championed by Tucson Police Department (TPD), such as deflection.

The new data dashboard TPD has made public offers an interesting contrast to the numbers provided by PCSO.

**Between May 2022 and today, TPD reports there have been 26,025 arrests made.**

***But only 56.9% of those arrestees were sent to jail. 41.2% were cited or given a summons to appear in court.<sup>50</sup>***

### **Judges**

While much is made about the role of law enforcement and prosecutors in driving jail population, there has been less discussion about how judges factor in. Professor Carissa Hessick, Distinguished Professor of Law and as the director of the Prosecutors and Politics Project at UNC Chapel Hill, authored a paper on the role of judges in mass incarceration. She identified numerous examples of how judges, particularly at the Municipal level, drive jail and prison

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<sup>48</sup><https://www.kold.com/2023/08/18/reform-with-few-results-pima-county-cant-prove-criminal-justice-reform-is-working/>

<sup>49</sup> Pima Co Sheriff's Department, Data Requested by the Pima County Jail Blue Ribbon Commission, April 11, 2023. <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/2e6a29bc-fe31-487e-8217-e45242dacddd?cache=1800>

<sup>50</sup> Tucson Police Department, Arrest Types, May 22- Current. Accessed on 2/9/24 via: <https://policeanalysis.tucsonaz.gov/>

populations. One such example is their control over decisions to hold people accused of crime in jail, set bail, or release them:

“...judges often defer to prosecutorial recommendations with respect to bail and pretrial detention. Multiple studies confirm that a prosecutor’s recommendation is the most important factor in judicial bail decisions.”<sup>51</sup>

In 2021, the Tucson Community Bail Fund (then the Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund) released a report that found this to be a significant problem in Pima County:

*“Judges in Pima County are only following recommendations to release defendants without conditions or money bail 44.4% of the time and instead are recommending supervision conditions and/or detention. Individuals with release recommendations receive more punitive pretrial release conditions than what Pima County Pretrial Services recommends 53.9% of the time. People are being detained or required to submit to increased levels of pretrial supervision because of arbitrary judicial discretion.”*<sup>52</sup>

The MacArthur Foundation’s own documentation would appear to confirm that *Judges’ unwillingness to collaborate with jail population reduction efforts are one significant reason the project has not met its goals:*

“The impact of judicial autonomy and decision-making was not factored in considerations of justice reform. When judges are unwilling to consider release recommendations, the best plans for reform can become stalled. Further, if courts do not collect data on judicial decisions, efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and even income disparities become even more difficult to address.”<sup>53</sup>

The last sentence refers to the fact that, in addition to a reluctance to change their sentencing practices, the judicial branch in Pima County has also not been open to sharing data regarding cases, decisions, and outcomes. This makes it difficult to pinpoint the problem or hold individuals accountable for their actions or inactions.

The defiance of the judiciary in Pima County was laid bare in a local news segment aired last year critiquing the shortcomings of the MacArthur SJC.

“Presiding magistrate judge Tony Riojas said in one interview judges are accountable to the law not public opinion, but explained the MacArthur Foundation and the reform initiative became the determining factor in release.

“We’re under pressure to release -- to release more people,” said Riojas, “They talk about doing it safely, but everyone’s saying release, release.”

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<sup>51</sup> Carissa Byrne Hessick, Judges and Mass Incarceration, 31 Wm. & Mary Bill Rts. J. 461 (2022), <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/wmblrj/vol31/iss2/5>

<sup>52</sup> TSCCBF, 2021. Pretrial Injustice: How the Pima County Judiciary is Using Pretrial Risk Assessments to Cage People

<sup>53</sup> <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/our-network/pima-county-az/>

And when asked whether he still has discretion, he responded, “Oh yeah, no doubt about it.”<sup>54</sup>

One document has come to light that illustrates a shocking level of variation in individual judges’ decision-making—a memo dated April 30, 2018 from then-Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry to the Board of Supervisors. The memo contains a spreadsheet listing the names of Tucson City Court, Pima County Justice Court and Pima County Superior Courts Judges, the number of inmates they sentenced, total jail bed days, the average length of stay and the costs associated with housing those inmates.

**The differences in average length of stay assigned by individual judges is jarring: from one day in jail to 308.**<sup>55</sup>

There may be perfectly reasonable explanations for why some judges are sentencing individuals to sentences that are as much as three hundred times longer than those other judges are imposing. Obviously, cases heard in Superior Court are likely to be more serious than those in Municipal court. The chart does not offer any case information that could indicate seriousness or dangerousness. However, other data related to those sentenced to jail reveals that only a tiny fraction of cases involved physical harm to another person.

Indeed, a surprisingly high proportion of cases—including those with a felony designation—are related to “failure to appear” and “fugitive warrant.” *See chart on pg 6.*

In other words, in many cases, judges are sending people to jail simply to ensure that they appear in court. Surely there are more ethical and economic means to this end.

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<sup>54</sup> KOLD, August 31, 2023. “Reform with Few Results: Another critical gap involving judges revealed in Pima County’s criminal justice reform shortfall”  
<https://www.kold.com/2023/08/18/reform-with-few-results-pima-county-cant-prove-criminal-justice-reform-is-working/>

<sup>55</sup> Chuck Huckleberry, April 30, 2018, memo to Pima County Board of Supervisors, “Criminal Justice System Costs Related to Individuals Sentenced to the Pima County Adult Detention Complex.”

| Summary of Inmates Sentenced to Pima Adult Detention Complex in Custody on 03/16/2018 |                             |                             |                        |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Judges                                                                                | Number of Sentenced Inmates | Total Jail Bed Days to Date | Average Length of Stay | Cost of Jail Bed Days  |
| ABOUD                                                                                 | 3                           | 108                         | 36                     | \$ 10,914.24           |
| AVILEZ                                                                                | 1                           | 136                         | 136                    | \$ 13,132.08           |
| BACAL                                                                                 | 4                           | 56                          | 14                     | \$ 6,197.60            |
| BEE                                                                                   | 1                           | 1                           | 1                      | \$ 315.18              |
| BERNING                                                                               | 2                           | 5                           | 3                      | \$ 915.18              |
| BERNINI                                                                               | 25                          | 2188                        | 88                     | \$ 213,234.72          |
| BOSTWICK                                                                              | 29                          | 2030                        | 70                     | \$ 199,115.16          |
| BREARCLIFFE                                                                           | 3                           | 547                         | 182                    | \$ 52,592.90           |
| BROWNING                                                                              | 18                          | 1386                        | 77                     | \$ 135,551.16          |
| BUTLER                                                                                | 18                          | 1148                        | 64                     | \$ 112,955.44          |
| CARROL                                                                                | 2                           | 46                          | 23                     | \$ 4,807.72            |
| CHAYET                                                                                | 1                           | 21                          | 21                     | \$ 2,213.98            |
| CORNEJO                                                                               | 2                           | 72                          | 36                     | \$ 7,276.16            |
| CRANSHAW                                                                              | 1                           | 4                           | 4                      | \$ 600.00              |
| EIKLEBERRY                                                                            | 1                           | 305                         | 305                    | \$ 29,176.94           |
| FELIX                                                                                 | 2                           | 416                         | 208                    | \$ 39,935.52           |
| FELL                                                                                  | 28                          | 2057                        | 73                     | \$ 201,458.30          |
| FIELDS                                                                                | 8                           | 639                         | 80                     | \$ 62,428.58           |
| GODOY                                                                                 | 53                          | 4346                        | 82                     | \$ 424,281.96          |
| KETTLEWELL                                                                            | 2                           | 6                           | 3                      | \$ 1,010.12            |
| LEE                                                                                   | 7                           | 757                         | 108                    | \$ 73,411.26           |
| LIWSKI                                                                                | 8                           | 588                         | 74                     | \$ 57,586.64           |
| MARNER                                                                                | 17                          | 1569                        | 92                     | \$ 152,704.94          |
| MCGINLEY                                                                              | 31                          | 2209                        | 71                     | \$ 216,549.90          |
| MILLION                                                                               | 11                          | 385                         | 35                     | \$ 38,974.54           |
| PECK                                                                                  | 2                           | 218                         | 109                    | \$ 21,137.40           |
| PESQUIERA                                                                             | 2                           | 40                          | 20                     | \$ 4,238.08            |
| ROBERTS                                                                               | 1                           | 43                          | 43                     | \$ 4,302.66            |
| SHETTER                                                                               | 2                           | 102                         | 51                     | \$ 10,124.36           |
| SKLAR                                                                                 | 2                           | 27                          | 14                     | \$ 3,003.86            |
| WATTERS                                                                               | 2                           | 181                         | 91                     | \$ 17,624.62           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                                                    | <b>289</b>                  | <b>21636</b>                | <b>75</b>              | <b>\$ 2,117,771.20</b> |

<sup>56</sup> Chuck Huckleberry, April 30, 2018, memo to Pima County Board of Supervisors, "Criminal Justice System Costs Related to Individuals Sentenced to the Pima County Adult Detention Complex."

## Probation

In 2023, the Urban Institute conducted a study in partnership with the county's Adult Probation Department focused on describing probation pathways to jail incarceration and system-level trends in jail incarceration for people on probation in Pima County. Among their key findings:

- Roughly 10 percent of all jail bookings in Pima County were due to probation violations, representing an overall low share of jail admissions. However, **average length of stay for people in jail for probation violations was considerably longer** at 66 days, nearly three times as long as that for the pretrial population (25 days) and five times as long as that for the sentenced population (13 days).<sup>57</sup>
- Probation violations resulting in jail incarceration represented 16 percent of all terminated probation cases and were **largely driven by technical violations**, which include absconding charges. Forty-eight percent of jail revocations and 59 percent of coterminous terminations were on account of technical violations only.<sup>58</sup>
- There were some **observable racial and ethnic disparities** in jail use as a formal revocation petition outcome. Native American and Hispanic people had higher odds—by 97 percent and 46 percent, respectively—of being revoked to jail compared with white people. Black people were 24 percent more likely to receive coterminous outcomes compared with white people.<sup>59</sup>

The report offers several recommendations to address these issues, chief among them that the County should **continue building on efforts to reduce the jail population**, particularly the population of people on probation in jail only for technical violations and ensure more people on probation engage with probation officers to lessen their risk of absconding. Relatedly, the authors urge Pima County to **strengthen support services**, such as substance use treatment, supportive housing, and employment search support.<sup>60</sup>

## Conclusion and Recommendations

In a recent meeting of the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge “Community Dialogue Focused Action Session,” Tucson Police Chief Chad Kasmar addressed those who had assembled in an effort to move the process of jail reform in Pima County forward. He praised the efforts that have been made in this area but acknowledged that “it all boils down to resources.” *“If you want different outcomes,”* he said, *“you need different investments.”*

No statement could more effectively sum up the choice before the Pima County Board of Supervisors. An investment of a billion dollars in a new jail will yield the exact same results that we have seen from every other investment in incarceration: No increase in community safety, no rehabilitation, no improvement in quality of life. Families torn apart, loss of breadwinners for

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<sup>57</sup> Ammar Khalid, et al., “At The Intersection of Probation and Jail Reduction Efforts: Findings on Probation, Jail, and Transitional Housing Trends in Pima County, Arizona.” Urban Institute, July 2023.

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

<sup>59</sup> *Id.*

<sup>60</sup> *Id.*

already financially fragile families, people saddled with criminal convictions that render them permanent second class citizens, more deaths from medical neglect, more suicides, more drug use, more unhoused people. And all of this tied to a permanent financial burden placed on taxpayers.

It is the textbook definition of ‘throwing good money after bad.’

Social science research has long ago demonstrated what kinds of investments actually do produce better safety outcomes: drug treatment, mental health services, accessible healthcare, safe housing. But these kinds of programs and services are perennially underfunded because the highest proportion of our city and county budgets are devoted to law enforcement, courts, and incarceration.

Fully funding the evidence-based models that are already underway in our community (listed above) with a complementary investment ensuring that the auxiliary services these programs depend on—behavioral health, counseling, drug treatment, supportive housing, employment assistance, case management—are adequate and accessible to everyone who needs them would be an investment that would yield a very different result. One that is ostensibly the thing we all want—less crime, safer communities, services that address people’s needs.

This paper has laid out a different path for Pima County—a roadmap for safe, feasible jail population reduction. The authors made use of what information was publicly available in an effort to provide enough evidence to make the case for a more comprehensive exploration of the avenues for jail population reduction in Pima County.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Place the process for expanding or replacing the Pima County Jail indefinitely on hold pending the completion of the other recommendations below.
2. Conduct an independent financial and performance audit of the Pima County Sheriff’s office to determine how the physical conditions of the jail were permitted to deteriorate so severely without intervention. Investigate how funding allocated by the Board of Supervisors to correct these problems was spent.
3. As per County Administrator’s recommendation, the new commission, directed by Pima County Justice Services, should conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of avenues for jail population reduction based on the information in this paper as well as any other relevant sources. At a minimum, this should address:
  - a. An impact assessment on every existing initiative created through the SJC and projected impacts on future jail population if fully funded and implemented over the next 5 years. Honest assessment of where these programs are not successful and an analysis of how to correct problems. Including, but not limited to:
    - i. Prebooking modular

- ii. Deflection programs
  - iii. Jail Population Review
  - iv. STEPS Court
  - v. Changes in judicial release decisions at Initial Appearance
  - vi. Warrant Resolution
  - vii. Expanded Pretrial Services
  - viii. Improved Probation Practices
- b. An impact assessment on the initiatives the City of Tucson has undertaken through the Community Safety Health and Wellness Department and projected impacts on future jail population if fully funded and implemented over the next 5 years
- c. A needs/gaps analysis of what supportive services, ancillary services or community-based supports are needed to ensure jail reduction efforts are successful, including but not limited to:
- i. Availability of drug treatment, both inpatient and outpatient. Length of waiting lists, costs, and any other barriers (staffing shortages). Particular attention should be paid to drug treatment and detox services available to individuals *without* requiring referral or required participation via the criminal legal system.
  - ii. Availability of behavioral and mental health treatment, both inpatient and outpatient. Length of waiting lists, costs, and any other barriers (staffing shortages). Particular attention should be paid to services available to individuals *without* requiring referral or required participation via the criminal legal system.
  - iii. Availability of supportive and transitional housing. Length of waiting lists, costs, and any other barriers (overly strict eligibility criteria, staffing shortages).
  - iv. Availability of training and employment assistance. Length of waiting lists, costs, and any other barriers (overly strict eligibility criteria, staffing shortages).
- d. Develop clear requirements for all related departments/agencies (including defense, prosecution, judges, court staff, law enforcement, probation) and realistic consequences (i.e. loss of county funding) for failure to cooperate



# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 2/20/24 ITEM NO. PA 6, 21, 31  
11, 12, 15, 18  
30, ADD 2

Brittany Fowlkes

From: MIRIAM DIAMOND [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 10:06 PM  
To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB\_mail  
Subject: My opinion

RECEIVED FEB 20 2024 08:02 PM CLK/D

05

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

## BOS MEETING Feb. 20, 2024

**Addendum 2. Agenda Item #1.** Update Discussion - Status of Legal Asylum Seeker Program in Pima County. **SUPPORT JAN LESHER'S RECOMMENDATION.** NO county dollars should be spent on immigration activities, as the county admits this is a federal issue. YOU enabled this crisis for five years and are now also responsible for what is about to happen in Tucson, and elsewhere. What will you do with the 1150 W. Drexel building recently purchased?

**Agenda Item #6:** Why does Pima County need an HPV DAY? Really? Should we also have a Flu Shot Day, a Get Your Family to the Clinic Day, or a National Flu Day? This is another way to push a vaccine on (and into) all of us. To proclaim it an awareness day is absolute silliness. Don't we have better things to spend our time on?

**Agenda Item #21** Get out of the vaccine-promotion business and start working on critical items for our citizens like the border invasion and fentanyl crisis.

**Agenda Item #31:** We are *not* in the business of promoting a vaccine that is killing and injuring thousands of people across the globe, especially children and young adults, this is an infection with a 99% survival rate. There is NO COVID emergency. Return all federal money received that has anything to do with COVID-19 funding. How many people they know that have died suddenly or been injured by the jabs.

**Agenda Item #11:** It is time to get back to basic budget items.

### **Agenda Item #12: Petition for Relief of Taxes**

In Arizona, churches are exempt from property taxes unless they fail to file on time each year. In her Petition to the Pima County BoS, Mrs. Curtis, the pastor's wife, describes the hardship the church endured starting in 2019 and how the church fell into delinquency in filing for yearly exemptions. Since the hardship began, the church has been intentional and on time in filing with the Arizona Corporation Commission, believing this was all that was required in filing for tax exemption. Pima County offers a Valuation Relief Program and the church has filed paperwork to qualify. This church shows no income from property rentals, etc., and as they are a small congregation. EXERCISE compassion and either look further into the circumstances of this petition, or forgive the delinquency today, as you would have done, if you were considering a tax exemption form, after all.

**Agenda Item #15:** Monthly Financial Update: WE EXPECT THAT THE BOS WILL DO DUE DILIGENCE TO GET THE BUDGET UNDER CONTROL. One of the ways we suggest is to

examine all the frivolous spending, such as last meeting's agenda items for Catholic Community Services of Arizona to house "asylum seekers", provide transportation, and continue the cycle of supporting the current border invasion.

**Agenda Item #18:** Living Streets Alliance, Amendment No. 1 This is double-speak for authoritarian state control driven by a false climate change narrative.

**Agenda Item #30:** While end-of-life equipment replacement is understandable, it should not be under the pretense of carbon reduction and "sustainability" – which is increasingly merely a euphemism for state control.

Miriam Diamond

2/18/24

Sent from my iPhone

Aliza Barraza

**From:** L Ford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:34 AM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Public comment - no jail expansion

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I am writing in from the east side of Tucson to say that I agree with the decision to NOT recommend further expansion/buildout of jail facilities in Pima County.

The abuses and human rights violations that are inherent to imprisonment cannot be addressed by caging people in a nicer building. The system of prison still results in denying medical care, dehumanizing people, and does not result in any "rehabilitation" of those who are convicted of a crime.

Separating people from their families and support systems by locking them in jail only serves to damage families further, causing a ripple effect across the community.

This money is better spent investing in housing, education, health care, mental health care, addiction support (including safe use sites) - all the things that are proven to be more effective.

Thank you,  
 Leah Ford

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FEB 20 2024 09:46 PC CLK OF BD

Aliza Barraza

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**From:** Sofia Forier-Montes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** no new jail!

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

I agree with the decision to not put forward the recommendations for the new jail. Also we need to address root causes of crime and help people by listening to them and addressing their needs.

Thank you!

Sofia Montes  
Tucson Resident

FEB 20 2024 PM 10:54 PC CLK OF BD

Aliza Barraza

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**From:** Sandoval, Myriam - [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:46 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Say No to Blue Ribbon Commission

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

I write to you today as a concerned constituent of Pima County. I am learning about Blue Ribbon Commission's proposal for a larger new jail in Pima County which the community does not need. Instead of funding a new incarceration facility, you should be funding community-based initiatives to tackle crime, houselessness, and addiction at its root. We don't need a bigger jail, we need support for community-based initiatives. As a city who discourages giving to panhandlers directly and encourages people to donate to city initiatives, I would expect the same energy when it comes to this proposal. This money should be funding affordable housing, sobriety centers and the public school system. If jails truly solved these issues, we would see it in the stats. I urge you to stop funding police and a larger jail system and start reinvesting in our community.

Best,  
Myriam Sandoval

FEB 20 24 PM 01:02 PC CLK OF BD  
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