PIMA COUNTY

ANDRÉS CANO
DISTRICT 5 SUPERVISOR

MEMORANDUM

November 13, 2025

To: Melissa Manriquez

From: Andrés Cano
District 5 Supervisor

RE: Addition to 11-18-25 Board of Supervisors Agenda

Please place the following on the addendum for the November 18, 2025 Board meeting:

Adopt Resolution No. 2025-___ declaring the fentanyl crisis as a continuing public health crisis, and adoption of the *One Pima Initiative: A Framework for Safety, Recovery, & Treatment*.

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ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-___

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REAFFIRMING THE DECLARATION OF FENTANYL AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE "ONE PIMA INITIATIVE: A FRAMEWORK FOR SAFETY, RECOVERY & TREATMENT,"

WHEREAS, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted **Resolution No. 2024-18** in May 2024, declaring fentanyl a *public health crisis* and directing the County to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based response to the growing opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl and synthetic opioid misuse continue to devastate families and communities across Pima County, representing not only a public health crisis but also a public safety, housing, and humanitarian crisis;

WHEREAS, data from the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner show that the fentanyl and methamphetamine crises remain the leading drivers of overdose deaths across the region. To date, in 2025, 378 residents have lost their lives to drug overdose, where an overwhelming number of these overdoses are fentanyl-related poisonings;

WHEREAS, Pima County and its regional partners have invested millions toward prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts — including Medication-Assisted Treatment for inmates in the Pima County Jail, expansion of the Transition Center, Narcan (naloxone) and fentanyl test kit distribution programs, and housing stability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the urgent need to connect these efforts through a unified framework that restores public spaces, strengthens community safety, and expands access to treatment, diversion, and housing support; and

WHEREAS, the County's opioid settlement funds, housing allocations, state and federal funding sources, and general fund dollars in Fiscal Year 2026 provide an opportunity to accelerate coordinated action with existing and planned funding in forthcoming years.

WHEREAS, it is critical that government jurisdictions across Pima County urgently take collective action to mitigate the devastating impact of fentanyl and opioids across our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors reaffirms fentanyl and synthetic opioid misuse as a **Public Health Crisis**, and directs the County Administrator to implement the **One Pima Initiative** as a countywide framework to mitigate the fentanyl and opioid crisis, expand substance abuse recovery & treatment, provide housing access for the unsheltered population, and ensure safety and maintenance of the Chuck Huckelberry Loop and on County property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Pima County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of November, 2025.

_____
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Deputy County Attorney

ATTACHMENT B

PIMA COUNTY

ONE PIMA INITIATIVE

A Framework for Safety, Recovery, & Treatment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *One Pima Initiative* is Pima County's two-year coordinated plan to strengthen public safety, expand treatment and recovery services, support housing stability, protect public health, and improve the condition of the Chuck Huckelberry Loop and County-managed public spaces.

The funding for One Pima is a combination of general fund commitments, state and federal funding, primarily from grants, and opioid settlement dollars. Additionally, the One Pima Initiative is in strong alignment with the Board of Supervisors' approved Prosperity Initiative.

Priority Area 1: Prioritize Loop Cleanup & Safety

- Restore and maintain clean, safe Loop pathways, parks, and washes.
- Reestablish the Loop Bike Patrol focused on safety and emergency response.
- Add lighting, signage, mile markers, and a new Loop Wellness App for reporting and user safety.

Priority Area 2: Strengthen Public Health & Treatment Access

- Support and maintain Countywide overdose prevention, youth education, and behavioral health programs, run by a wide variety of community partners.
- Ensure people in custody receive treatment and continued care when released.
- Sustain cooling centers during extreme heat.
- Advocate at the State for expanded coverage for people in early and long-term recovery.

Priority Area 3: Expand Treatment & Diversion Programs

- Increase capacity at the Transition Center to operate seven days a week.
- Strengthen diversion programs that move people into treatment instead of jail.
- Improve reentry support for low-risk justice-involved individuals.
- Pilot the Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center through Opioid settlement dollars

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Priority Area 4: Stabilize Housing & Prevent Homelessness

- Continue significant County investments in housing, including affordable construction, rental assistance, supportive housing, and weatherization.
- Expand partnerships for transitional and supportive housing.
- Develop a regional real-time system showing available shelter and beds.
- Address shelter barriers: pets, storage, and bathroom & shower facilities.

Priority Area 5: Support Impacted Neighborhoods & Small Businesses

- Launch the Silverlake–Mission Reinvestment Zone planning study to improve roads, parks, and neighborhood infrastructure.
- Study a Small Business Safety & Recovery Pilot to help local businesses offset safety-related expenses.

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PIMA COUNTY

ONE PIMA INITIATIVE

A Framework for Safety, Recovery, & Treatment

1) PRIORITY AREA #1: LOOP CLEANUP AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Unauthorized encampments and illegal dumping have increased significantly along The Chuck Huckelberry Loop and adjacent washes, placing a strain on County infrastructure and public safety resources. Residents and Loop patrons have called for visible action to restore safety and cleanliness along this vital regional asset.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) **In the adopted FY26 Flood Control budget, the Board reaffirms Pima County's commitment to $750,000 to county-wide cleanup of The Chuck Huckelberry Loop and adjacent parks and/or washes.** These cleanups, jointly coordinated by the Regional Flood Control District and Parks and Recreation, shall be expeditiously completed before April 2026. The County Administrator shall evaluate outcomes and report on expanded cleanup recommendations for the next fiscal year.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Improve quality of life

b) **The Board requests the County Administrator work with the Pima County Sheriff's Department to reestablish a Loop Bike Patrol, replacing the current volunteer model with a trauma-informed unit of uniformed Sheriff's personnel dedicated to public safety along County-managed portions of The Chuck Huckelberry Loop and within unincorporated Pima County.** To launch this unit, the Board directs that the County Administrator work with the Pima County Sheriff to present a plan for funding at the January 6, 2026, meeting. The County Administrator shall coordinate with the Sheriff and the City of Tucson to ensure that law enforcement within City limits remains the responsibility of the Tucson Police Department, allowing Sheriff personnel to focus on Loop safety and infrastructure protection. All safety responses shall be paired with trained outreach and navigation teams to provide treatment and housing connections. The County Administrator shall return to the Board by May 2026 with a cross-jurisdictional deployment plan and recommended FY27 funding strategy.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Prevent and reduce crime

c) **The Board requests that the County Administrator prepare a Loop Improvement Plan in collaboration with the Regional Flood Control District and Parks & Recreation.** The plan shall evaluate the creation of a web-based Loop Wellness App to support fitness tracking, safety reporting, and user

engagement, along with options for additional safety infrastructure to the Loop-such as evening motion-sensor lighting and QR-coded emergency signs.

To ensure the plan reflects the needs of the thousands of residents who walk, run, and cycle The Loop each week, the County Administrator shall incorporate robust community engagement, including on-site surveys with Loop patrons, QR-linked digital feedback tools, and pop-up engagement stations at high-use trailheads. Recommendations shall be submitted to the Board by May 2026.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Improve Quality of Life

2) PRIORITY AREA #2: PUBLIC HEALTH AND TREATMENT

Pima County continues to lead in addressing the public health impacts of fentanyl, substance use, and behavioral health crises. To save lives and sustain recovery, the County will strengthen existing public health programs, ensure continuity of care for individuals leaving custody, and advocate for state and federal alignment in behavioral health policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) **In the adopted FY26 budget, the Board reaffirms continued funding for key behavioral health and prevention initiatives, including community mental health and addiction services, fentanyl test-strip distribution, Narcan access, overdose response, trauma-informed prevention, and youth substance-use education** — representing more than $14 million in County investment since 2018.

b) **In the adopted FY26 budget, the Board reaffirms medication-assisted treatment and behavioral health services for inmates at the Pima County Jail,** ensuring individuals in custody receive treatment and are connected to care upon release.

c) **In the adopted FY26 budget, the Board reaffirms continued funding for involuntary stabilization and court-ordered treatment services at the Pima County Crisis Response Center,** which provides 24/7 psychiatric and substance-use stabilization at an annual cost of approximately $3.4 million.

d) **In the adopted FY26 budget, the Board reaffirms sustained investment in heat response operations, cooling centers, and public health outreach, totaling approximately $850,000 annually.**

e) **The Board reaffirms the County's long-term commitment to allocate the $126 million in opioid settlement funds over the next 18 years with transparent reporting, annual performance tracking, and public accountability measures to evaluate impact and outcomes.**

f) **Direct the County Administrator to add to the County's 2026 Legislative Agenda a request that the Arizona Legislature require the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System to provide up to six months of continuous medication-assisted treatment and behavioral health coverage for individuals recovering from substance use disorders, including those exiting county custody.** The legislative request shall also seek the creation of a statewide treatment-linkage system to ensure uninterrupted access to medication, counseling, and care upon release.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Improve quality of life, housing stability, address climate resilience and environmental justice

3) PRIORITY AREA #3: TREATMENT AND DIVERSION EXPANSION

The fentanyl epidemic continues to drive overdose deaths and criminal justice system involvement. Treatment and diversion programs remain among the County's most effective strategies to reduce recidivism and connect individuals to recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) **The Board requests $300,000 from the Regional Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee to expand treatment, diversion, and recovery programs at the Pima County Transition Center in FY26.** This action will support expanding evidence-based operations to seven days per week and linking justice-involved individuals to housing, healthcare, and behavioral health services.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: housing stability, improve quality of life, prevent and reduce crime

b) **In the FY27 budget recommendations, the County Administrator shall allocate $350,000 for the Board's consideration to fund expansion of the County Attorney's Drug Treatment Alternative Program (DTAP) to expand diversion capacity and peer support.** *FY26 funding is currently $250,000.*

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: prevent and reduce crime, improve quality of life

c) **In the FY27 budget recommendations, the County Administrator shall allocate $350,000 for the Board's consideration to fund the Supportive Treatment and Engagement Program (STEPs) at Pima County Superior Court to serve low-risk offenders and improve reentry coordination.** *FY26 funding is currently $250,000.*

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: prevent and reduce crime, improve quality of life,

d) **The Board requests $2.2 million from the Regional Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee for the Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center using**

opioid settlement dollars in FY26. SAFR is a dedicated sobering and stabilization facility designed to divert individuals experiencing acute intoxication or withdrawal away from jail and emergency rooms and into immediate care. This investment will expand the County's treatment continuum by providing clinical monitoring, short-term stabilization, and direct linkage to housing, recovery programs, and long-term behavioral health services.

Prosperity Initiative alignment: prevent and reduce crime, improve quality of life.

4) PRIORITY AREA #4: TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Stable housing is the cornerstone of recovery and community safety. Pima County remains committed to expanding housing options and preventing homelessness through strong partnerships with cities, nonprofits, and community organizations.

Since 2020, the County has invested more than $60 million in housing stability efforts — including $15.9 million in Gap Funding to build affordable homes, $1 million annually for Rapid Rehousing to help residents exit homelessness, and $9.3 million for Eviction and Emergency Legal Services to keep families housed. Additional investments include $7.2 million for the Craycroft supportive housing project, $4 million for Housing First programs serving justice-involved individuals, and $2 million annually for Community Action Programs that assist with rent, mortgage, and utilities. With $5 million dedicated to home repair and weatherization, Pima County continues to help residents remain safely housed while strengthening neighborhood resilience and public health across the region.

Collectively, these investments demonstrate Pima County's sustained commitment to preventing displacement, supporting reentry and recovery populations, and maintaining housing as the foundation of community stability and public health.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) **The Board reaffirms that $1,000,000 in the adopted FY26 Community, Workforce & Development budget will support transitional, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing partnerships with regional jurisdictions and nonprofit providers.**

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Housing stability, housing supply, improve quality of life

b) **The Board requests that the County Administrator work with regional housing providers and jurisdictions to gather feedback on a Regional Coordinated Shelter Capacity Platform for inclusion in the FY27 budget**. This platform shall support real-time data sharing on shelter and housing availability across the region. The County may provide participation and funding incentives to nonprofit and municipal partners to ensure accuracy, timeliness, and systemwide visibility.

i) **As part of this outreach, the Board requests that the County Administrator identify pathways for shelters and housing providers to expand their capacity for pet accommodations and personal storage facilities for unhoused individuals.** The County shall explore pilot programs and facility modifications for the FY27 budget to ensure that shelters throughout Pima County meet the practical and humane needs of unsheltered people, including access to showers and bathrooms.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: housing stability, improve quality of life

5) PRIORITY AREA #5 – SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS & SMALL BUSINESSES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

***a) Silverlake-Mission Reinvestment Zone*:** Families and neighbors near the Pima County Jail, Transition Center, and Fleet Services face daily impacts from the concentration of justice, recovery, and government services. These Westside neighborhoods — including Barrio Kroeger Lane, Barrio Santa Cruz, and Barrio Sin Nombre — deserve visible reinvestment and improvements to quality of life.

- **The Board requests that the County Administrator allocate up to $50,000 in FY26 Capital Improvement Funds to conduct a planning study for the Silverlake-Mission Reinvestment Zone, supported by the Pima County Community and Workforce Development Department**. This study shall assess and design improvements to roads, parks, neighborhood infrastructure, and public art near the Pima County Jail, Transition Center, and treatment corridors. A public-facing survey and neighborhood outreach plan shall be conducted before recommendations are made to the Board.. The County Administrator shall return recommendations for a public-private funding model to support a $2 million investment between FY27-FY28 no later than May 2026.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Improve quality of life and opportunity in high-poverty neighborhoods

b) Small Business Safety & Recovery Fund: Unsheltered individuals and crime-related incidents have placed a growing burden on local small businesses, particularly in older commercial corridors and urban centers. Many business owners have had to install or repair security systems, fencing, and lighting at their own expense.

- **The Board requests that the County Administrator conduct a feasibility study for a one-time *Small Business Safety and Recovery Fund* in partnership with local business associations, chambers of commerce, and nonprofit partners**. The pilot shall assess viable funding models — including private sponsorships, federal or state grants, and philanthropic contributions — to reimburse locally owned businesses (≤50 employees) for eligible safety and

security improvements in the last calendar year up to $500. For planning purposes, assume a $250,000 allocation from the Economic Development Department in FY27 and gauge pooling of funds from other sources. The Administrator shall report back to the Board by **April 2026** with recommendations on program design, legal considerations, funding sources, and measurable outcomes.

Prosperity Initiative Alignment: Improve financial capability, improve quality of life

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<u>One Pima - Administration and Transparency</u>

- The County Administrator shall work with all County departments and jurisdictional partners to reaffirm the County and Board's commitment to the ***One Pima Initiative.***

- The County Administrator shall return to the Board with **two progress reports** — the first at the **second Board meeting in February 2026**, and the second at the **second meeting in April 2026** — summarizing expenditures, departmental coordination, performance outcomes, and recommended adjustments to the recommendations above.

Submitted for consideration by:

Supervisor Andrés Cano, District 5, on Nov. 13, 2025