

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 4

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, PROVIDE EQUITABLE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR ALL, AND INVEST IN ROOT CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND POVERTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

There are multiple proposals at the federal and state levels led by advocates that have been at the forefront of reforming the criminal justice system. Communities across the country are working to safely reduce the number of people unjustly in jails and prisons through data-informed, evidence-based measures and we must join them.

At local, state, and federal levels of government there are proposals to reform criminal justice and police policies, including pretrial detention reform, and alternatives to arrest and incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat. The County of San Diego has been working towards criminal justice reform by providing an equitable and accessible system. The system continues to be adjusted by ongoing review of policies that invest in jails' rehabilitation efforts; and promoting best practices to ease reentry and reduce recidivism.

The County of San Diego reaffirms its commitment to reform by working with our Justice partners: Public Safety Group, Health and Human Services Agency, and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice, along with community-based organizations and justice-impacted individuals, to move forward policies that seek reform using a data-driven and evidence-based approach.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS

Adopt the Resolution entitled: ADVANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, PROVIDE EQUITABLE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR ALL, AND INVEST IN ROOT CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND POVERTY.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This resolution underscores the County's commitment to advancing criminal justice reform in our region and uplifts individuals who are impacted by the system. People of color are often overrepresented in the criminal justice system. African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, they are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentences. African American adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than whites and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely. People with mental illness are also overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Nationally, more than one quarter of people in jail meet the threshold for serious psychological distress and nearly half had been told by a mental health professional that they have a mental illness. As the County moves forward with creating reforms around the criminal justice system and its current behavioral health system it's important to acknowledge and address the conditions of poverty and injustice certain communities experience.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with recommendations resulting from today's action; any such recommendations would need to be approved by the Board.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 21-164, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO ADVANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, PROVIDE EQUITABLE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR ALL, AND INVEST IN ROOT CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND POVERTY.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

