

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 25

**SUBJECT: SHERIFF UPDATE ON SAN DIEGO COUNTY DETENTION FACILITIES
INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) has the legal and moral obligation to care for individuals in its custodial setting. The Sheriff's Office operates a system of seven uniquely designed detention facilities located throughout San Diego County, with a combined average daily population of more than 4,300 incarcerated persons, which is trending towards an average daily population increase of 12 percent higher due to Proposition 36.

The Sheriff's Office has been making intentional efforts to improve service delivery to those in its custodial care. This has been achieved through focused and extraordinary changes to existing systems and processes centered on medical and mental health care services, intake procedures and screening, and contraband and narcotic detection. The Sheriff's Office has added physician level evaluations at every intake facility resulting in the ability to conduct a comprehensive review of chronic and pre-existing medical conditions. The capacity of the Out-Patient Stepdown Unit (OPSD) has also been expanded thus creating the ability to provide therapy and treatment to a larger part of our Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) population.

Unfortunately, improvements in these focused areas are often constrained due to the physical footprint and limited square footage of detention facilities that were not designed to accommodate and house population increases and longer term stays that resulted from California's Public Safety Realignment in 2011 (Assembly Bill 109). With long-stay incarcerated populations comes greater need and investments to replace and renovate the dated detention facilities and existing infrastructure within the jail system to operate proper medical and mental health care and substance use treatment, educational and vocational programs and reentry planning. Existing detention facilities, built on average several decades ago, are not conducive to optimal delivery of care and rehabilitation services, and in addition, significant investment in systems that have reached end-of-life, including upgrades to plumbing, security systems, HVAC, and electrical building infrastructure, is needed.

Today's action seeks to provide the San Diego County Board of Supervisors with a presentation on the state of County detention facilities and the extent of immediate infrastructure needs required to maintain health and safety of Sheriff's Office employees and incarcerated people.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SHERIFF

Receive the Sheriff's Office presentation on the State of Local Detention Facility Infrastructure Needs.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Sheriff's Office prioritizes the health and safety of those in custody. Facility recommendations and requirements offer a baseline of the infrastructure necessary to enhance delivery of services which will improve outcomes and reduce health disparities. Above and beyond the Constitutional minimum

requirements, jail facilities should reflect the community standard of integrated healthcare and support incarcerated persons with a holistic approach. The Sheriff's Office is continually enhancing technology and programs in County detention facilities to enhance the level of care and increase access, thus creating a physical environment conducive to the health and well-being of all incarcerated persons. This approach maximizes the overall health and life trajectory of incarcerated persons and better supports reentry to the community upon release.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The necessary facility replacements and facility improvements systemwide presented today all contribute to the County of San Diego's sustainability goal to provide just and equitable access to County services. The Sheriff's Office has been committed to improving its service delivery to those in its custodial care. Facility and system improvements and replacements support both a safer environment for incarcerated persons and more effective coordinated medical and mental health care service delivery. We are focused on a person-centered approach to rehabilitate individuals and want to provide equitable access for family members along with collaborative spaces for criminal justice and community-based partners. By investing in modern infrastructure, the Sheriff's Office will be able to provide enhanced care and resources to individuals in custody.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's action. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

The Board of Supervisors received the Sheriff's Office presentation on the State of Local Detention Facility Infrastructure Needs.

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

