

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 17**

**SUBJECT: DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT’S PRELIMINARY REPORT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On October 19, 2021 (3), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed a series of actions aimed at permanently and safely reducing the jail population by creating alternatives to incarceration and community-based services and supports for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat. The Board actions directed development of comprehensive policy and service recommendations based on data, research, and stakeholder input. The direction came in the context of the COVID-19 public health emergency, during which policy changes enacted to keep jail populations low to protect public health and reduce infections resulted in significant reductions in the number of people booked into and held in local jails.

The Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to contract with an independent consultant to analyze specific data and the impact of pandemic-related policies on jail populations and public safety; solicit stakeholder input; review local community-based services supporting alternatives to incarceration and successful models from other jurisdictions; and develop short and long-term comprehensive recommendations for policies and services to support alternatives to detention in lieu of custody, along with fiscal analysis of costs and savings associated with the recommendations. Project goals include enhancing public safety through effective community-based services that address the root causes of arrest and crime, advancing equity, and reducing incarceration.

Following a competitive solicitation, the County contracted with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) as the project’s independent consultant. SANDAG will present its analysis and recommendations in a series of reports to the Board on a previously directed schedule, including today’s preliminary report. The Public Safety Group presented initial findings and recommendations developed through the working group and a community forum that were approved by the Board on February 8, 2022 (11). The CAO, through the Public Safety Group, will continue to convene a working group of public agency stakeholders to solicit and develop service recommendations to support alternatives to incarceration. The Public Safety Group plans to draw on SANDAG’s research and planned stakeholder and community engagement as it develops CAO recommendations to be included in future scheduled Board returns. Future scheduled returns to the Board on Alternatives to Incarceration will include both SANDAG and CAO reports and recommendations.

Today’s action is to accept SANDAG’s Preliminary Report and receive a presentation on the report from SANDAG.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Accept the Preliminary Report provided by the San Diego Association of Governments on Data-Driven Approaches to Public Safety and Alternatives to Incarceration.
2. Receive a presentation from the San Diego Association of Governments.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Nationally, social determinants lead to disproportionate crime rates, arrest, and incarceration of people of color and those who are poor, mentally ill, struggling with addiction, disabled or homeless. The same is true in San Diego County, where people of color are disproportionately incarcerated, as are those with behavioral health conditions and those experiencing homelessness. According to local jail data, in 2021 black individuals composed 20 percent of the average daily jail population while census data indicates only 5 percent of San Diego County residents are black. Furthermore, the 2020 We All Count point in time survey estimated 25 percent of individuals in jail had been homeless at the time of arrest.

Today's action accepts SANDAG's Preliminary Report on a research and stakeholder engagement project to establish alternatives to incarceration through services that address social determinants associated with justice system involvement. The analysis and service proposals to be developed by SANDAG as part of the Alternatives to Incarceration project are expected to advance fairness and equity and create opportunities for better outcomes for underserved and diverse communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system by reducing justice involvement, incarceration, and recidivism. Service recommendations developed by SANDAG will include an analysis of their potential to achieve positive outcomes with attention to cultural responsiveness and accessibility among the County's diverse populations, especially those disproportionately impacted by justice involvement. Information on demographics and geographic area will be collected, reviewed, and reported as part of SANDAG's work to illuminate the impacts of COVID-19 related policies on subpopulations and continually inform the design, effectiveness, and equity of service proposals. Throughout this project, community stakeholders will be engaged in the review of data and outcome measures to provide diverse perspectives and inform ongoing implementation.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no current year fiscal impact associated with today's request. Staff will return to the Board for any related future recommendations with fiscal impacts.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

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