

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 23

SUBJECT: ENACTING EMERGENCY MEASURES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY JAILS TO PREVENT FURTHER DEATHS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Despite continuing efforts at reform made by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the San Diego Sheriff's Department, fifteen incarcerated individuals have died while in custody this year. During the month of July alone, five individuals died. The Sheriff's Department has identified a shifting nature of the deaths occurring in the jails, and that the proliferation of dangerous drugs, including fentanyl, are a major driver of deaths this year. Incarcerated individuals should not be allowed to die on our watch. It is our responsibility to prevent further deaths and stem the flow of drugs into our jails.

This item requires immediate action because the number of deaths in the jails are increasing and the Board must undertake any measures possible to support the Sheriff's Department to fulfill the County's duty of providing sufficient care for those who are incarcerated. Today's action proposes a suite of emergency measures designed to keep individuals safe from drug overdoses in jails. This includes the expeditious roll out of staffing programs, the exploration of innovative strategies to promote security and wellness, and the acquisition of sufficient technology, such as body scanners, that can help intercept and interdict dangerous drugs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with the San Diego Sheriff's Department to implement the following emergency measures within 30 days, or as soon as possible, and return to the Board with progress on efforts within 60 days.
 1. If approved, ensure the most expeditious roll out of staffing incentives and strategies for detention positions, sworn and not sworn, outlined in the proposed Compensation Ordinance brought forward before the Board at the August 16 Board Meeting.
 2. Explore strategies that will lead to increased levels of care and safety in the jails, including further enhancing the types and quality of security and wellness checks, and expanding access to Medication Assisted Treatment.
2. Request the Sheriff's Department allocate \$200,000 for the purchase of the latest body scanner technology, imaging and other avenues which will support the Sheriff's efforts to intercept and interdict dangerous drugs (in particular, fentanyl) from entering the jail system.
3. In accordance with Section 401, et. seq., of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for one (1) Body Scanner, with the option to purchase up to (8) additional scanners of the model that is current at the time of purchase, over the next five years, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for a body scanner, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to approval of the Sheriff.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Due to the history of racism and oppression in the United States, incarceration has disproportionately impacted people of color. According to a 2018 report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System, Black Americans make up 27% of all individuals arrested in the United States, which is twice their share of the total population. Further, the recent State Auditor's report on the in-custody deaths in San Diego County jails, noted that in the most recent three years-2018 through 2020-the percentage of deaths of Black individuals in the Sheriff's Department's custody was disproportionately higher than their overall composition of the jail population. Continued efforts at reform must acknowledge current racial disparities and focus on equitable solutions.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the proposed updates to the Compensation Ordinance referenced in Recommendation #1a are approved, changes to the Compensation Ordinance will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$11.6 million for the Sheriff's Department in the current fiscal year. Funds for the proposed updates are not included in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operation Plan for departments; however, if approved, these costs will be absorbed by the existing allocations. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with future recommendations tied to Recommendation #1b and as appropriate, staff will return to the Board for approval.

If approved, funds for Recommendation #2, will result in estimated costs and revenue in the current fiscal year for the Sheriff's Department of \$200,000 to pilot enhanced body scanning in the jail setting. Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operational Plan for the department, and, if approved, these costs will be absorbed by the existing allocations of the department. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. As appropriate, staff will return to the Board for approval of future costs and revenue associated with system wide adoption of new technology.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, directing the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in 60 days with progress on the efforts.

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

AUGUST 16, 2022