

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#3

Tuesday,  
October 19, 2021

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 10/15/2021

**From:** [Cruz Cardenas, Gloria](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for item 3  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:49:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [LOS TLR Board Letter 10.19 UDW.pdf](#)  
[Sheriff Gore Letter-Data Driven to Public Safety-Support.pdf](#)  
[Sup. Terra Lawson-Remer - Data Driven Approach NC Lifeline.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Please see attached letters of support for Item 3.

Best,  
Gloria

**Gloria Cruz Cardenas**, Director (*She/Her/Hers/Ella*)  
*Senior Public Safety Advisor*  
Office of San Diego County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
(p) (619) 531-6183  
(c) (858) 289-9203  
[Gloria.CruzCardenas@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Gloria.CruzCardenas@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
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October 12, 2021

**Re: A data-driven approach to protecting public safety, improving and expanding rehabilitative treatment and services, and advancing equity through alternatives to incarceration: building on lessons learning during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing today to urge your support for a data-driven approach to expanding alternatives to custody. UDW is fully committed to the pursuit of social justice, and no one should go to jail just because they are poor, homeless, or experiencing a behavioral health crisis. We have an opportunity to address the root causes of justice system involvement and promote public safety in a more cost-effective and humane way.

Keeping poor, homeless, or mentally ill individuals who do not pose a public safety threat in jail does not make us safer, nor does it best serve this population. Instead, it imposes significant costs on society, taxpayers, individuals, and families. And it further exacerbates issues of mental illness and creates debt and poverty traps.

Statewide and locally, taxpayers spend \$81,000/year to incarcerate someone with a mental health illness, versus \$32,000/year for permanent supportive housing in the community, or \$3,000 to \$10,000/year for an outpatient sobering program. We must find a more effective way to address incarceration in our region.

Supervisor Lawson-Remer's board letter calls on San Diego County to analyze our current jail system and explore alternatives to incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat.

We can safely reduce the number of people in jails through data-informed, evidence-based measures, including investing in community-based resources outside of the traditional justice system, including supportive services, counseling, treatment, and workforce development; reexamining enforcement practices and the money bail system; and creating infrastructure to divert people to alternatives to incarceration. These tactics help prevent harm in the community, support rehabilitation, and ensure that incarceration is used as a last resort.

UDW stands behind Supervisor Lawson-Remer's efforts, and we ask for your support on this board item.

Sincerely,

Doug Moore

Executive Director

United Domestic Workers of America/AFSCME Local 3930



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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*William D. Gore, Sheriff*

*Kelly A. Martinez*  
*Undersheriff*

October 14, 2021

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Lawson-Remer,

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department supports the board letter entitled "A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES, AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: BUILDING ON LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC."

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is uniquely positioned to have a firsthand view of incarceration and alternatives to incarceration and supports a data-driven approach to expanding alternatives to custody.

The board letter Supervisor Lawson-Remer is bringing forward is a data driven approach to analyze our current jail system and explore alternatives to incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat. If there are opportunities to provide community-based or alternatives to incarceration that will not put communities at risk, I support an opportunity to identify them.

It is important to use data and evidence to identify individuals who can be treated for behavioral health issues outside of the jail setting. San Diego County does not currently have enough alternatives to custody and/or pre-trial options that will keep low-level offenders in a supervised community setting versus jail.

Several changes were instituted in 2019 to facilitate early jail releases, emergency zero bail, and altered booking acceptance criteria. These changes were made during a pandemic to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the jail. It is important to understand how these changes affected public safety and if individuals who benefited from these changes were better served by alternatives to custody.

Charges such as drug possession or paraphernalia have less of an effect on overall public safety but are still a concern due to the nature of obtaining and being under the influence of drugs. An alternative to jail for these individuals could provide a viable option to help individuals with substance use disorder while still providing for safe communities.

The ability to use evidence and data to better understand who could be diverted from incarceration to a community-based alternative, with a strong emphasis on community safety is my reason for supporting this board letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William D. Gore". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent and the last name "Gore" following in a similar style.

William D. Gore, Sheriff

10/11/2021

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer:

North County Lifeline supports the board letter entitled **"A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES, AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: BUILDING ON LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC."**

Because North County Lifeline ("Lifeline") are uniquely positioned to have a firsthand view of incarceration and alternatives to incarceration, Lifeline and its members whole-heartedly support Terra Lawson-Remer's data-driven approach to expanding alternatives to custody.

The jail population in San Diego averages about 5,630 people a day. Many of those incarcerated are poor, homeless, mentally ill or have a substance use problem, and keeping them in jail, does not make us safer nor does it best serve this population. Inappropriate and ineffective incarceration of individuals who do not pose a public safety threat non-violent imposes significant costs on society, taxpayers, individuals, and families.

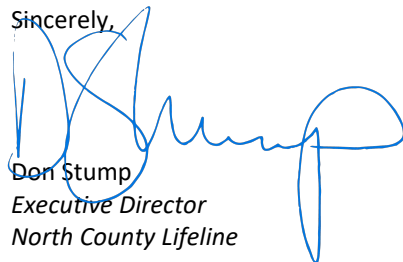
Statewide and locally, taxpayers spend \$81,000 a year to incarcerate someone with a mental health illness versus \$32,000 a year for permanent supportive housing in the community, or \$3,000 to \$10,000 a year for an outpatient sobering program. It is time we look into a more effective ways to address incarceration in our region.

Supervisor Lawson-Remer is bringing forward a data driven board letter that will address the need for San Diego County to analyze our current jail system and explore alternatives to incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat.

Communities across the country are working to safely reduce the number of people in jails through data-informed, evidence-based measures. This includes investing in often underfunded community-based resources outside of the traditional justice system, including supportive services, counseling, treatment, and workforce development; reexamining enforcement practices and the money bail system; and creating the infrastructure to divert people to alternatives to incarceration. These approaches help prevent harm in the community, support rehabilitation, and ensure that incarceration is used as a last resort.

No one should be going to jail just because they are homeless or experiencing a behavioral health crisis. We have an opportunity to create alternative treatments and services that can address the root causes of justice system involvement and promote public safety in a more cost-effective and humane way.

Sincerely,



Don Stump  
Executive Director  
North County Lifeline



15 October 2021

Interfaith Community Services supports the board letter entitled **“A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES, AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: BUILDING ON LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.”**

Because Interfaith Community Services are uniquely positioned to have a firsthand view of incarceration and alternatives to incarceration, Interfaith Community Services whole-heartedly support Terra Lawson-Remer’s data-driven approach to expanding alternatives to custody.

The jail population in San Diego averages about 5,630 people a day. Many of those incarcerated are poor, homeless, mentally ill or have a substance use problem, and keeping them in jail, does not make us safer nor does it best serve this population. Inappropriate and ineffective incarceration of individuals who do not pose a public safety threat imposes significant costs on society, taxpayers, individuals, and families.

Statewide and locally, taxpayers spend \$81,000 a year to incarcerate someone with a mental health illness versus \$32,000 a year for permanent supportive housing in the community, or \$3,000 to \$10,000 a year for an outpatient sobering program. It is time we look into more effective ways to address incarceration in our region.

Supervisor Lawson-Remer is bringing forward a data driven board letter that will address the need for San Diego County to analyze our current jail system and explore alternatives to incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat.

Communities across the country are working to safely reduce the number of people in jails through data-informed, evidence-based measures. This includes investing in often underfunded community-based resources outside of the traditional justice system, including supportive services, counseling, treatment, and workforce development; reexamining enforcement practices and the money bail system; and creating the infrastructure to divert people to alternatives to incarceration. These approaches help prevent harm in the community, support rehabilitation, and ensure that incarceration is used as a last resort.

No one should be going to jail just because they are homeless or experiencing a behavioral health crisis. We have an opportunity to create alternative treatments and services that can address the root causes of justice system involvement and promote public safety in a more cost-effective and humane way.

Interfaith's Supportive Services provide access to comprehensive programs that empower the community to lead independent and thriving lives. This includes legal clinics and homeless court - a special Superior Court session for homeless defendants or defendants at risk of being homeless to resolve misdemeanor offenses, minor infractions, traffic issues and outstanding warrants. Clients are

connected with advocates to help them prepare for the court hearing. Fines are cleared based on achievements and accomplishments that lead to self-sufficiency. Through assessments, case management, supportive services, housing, rehab, and employment Interfaith ensures community members reach their full potential making the common denominator for our clients - self-sufficiency.

Interfaith requests that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors support agenda items #3 and #4 in order to better study the impact of reducing incarceration and identify alternatives to incarceration which can better address mental health, substance use, and homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Anglea', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Anglea  
Chief Executive Officer  
*Cohn Family Executive Director Chair*