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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 23, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Update/Information Regarding Board of Supervisors January 24, 2023 Addendum  
Agenda Item 5 – “Tucson Crime Free Coalition”**

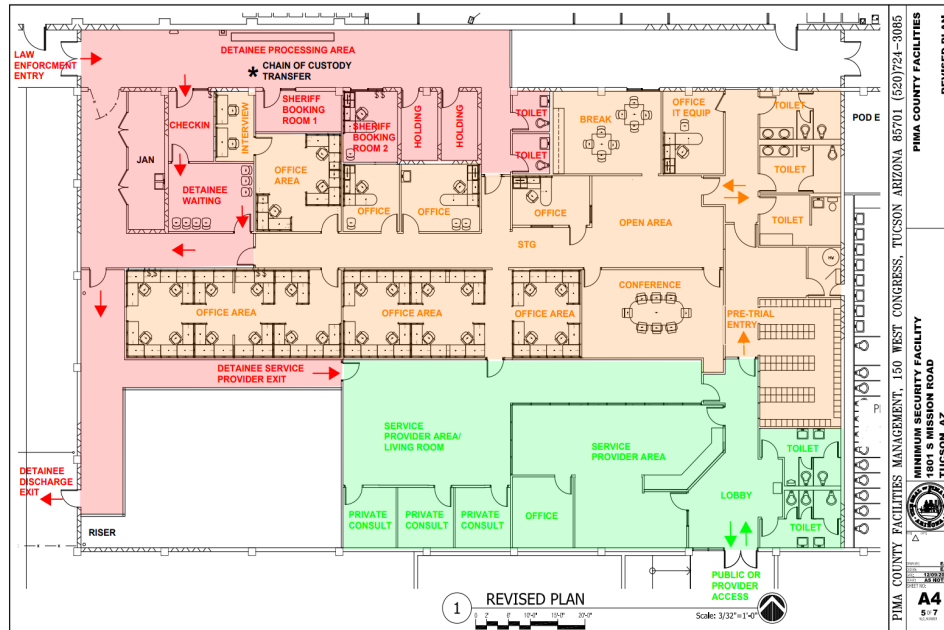
The purpose of this memo is to provide the Board of Supervisors with an update on Pima County’s plan to help reduce crime in our community. These efforts are the result of our continued collaboration with our many County partners, the City of Tucson and the Tucson Crime Free Coalition. The County’s role in this collaboration has been to provide stewardship for our local business community to successfully facilitate discussion and collaboration between local municipalities, our court systems, and local law enforcement agencies, with the goal of developing and implementing innovative and effective systems of accountability and support that will result in reduced crime and recidivism in our community.

## Pretrial Services Relocation

As outlined in the [December 2, 2022 memo to the Board of Supervisors](#), a primary vehicle in this effort to reduce crime and recidivism has been to work with Pretrial Services (PTS), a division of Pima County Superior Court, to connect individuals released through their prebooking process with a “warm hand-off” to social service agencies. These agencies, if within the jurisdiction of PTS, would facilitate real-time support for the released individual in the following areas of service: substance abuse treatment, behavioral health, employment, temporary housing, and/or crisis intervention. There is consensus from the courts and law enforcement that this idea of incorporating wraparound services into PTS process, resulting in the reduction of time between release and individuals being connected with services, is a worthwhile investment.

Since the Board of Supervisors’ approval to remodel the empty Mission Annex Facilities for the aforementioned use, our Facilities Management Department has been working closely with PTS staff and County Administration on various iterations to develop the ideal design for the building in the timeline we presented of February 1, 2023. Security concerns echoed by both the courts and the Sheriff’s Department of the facility being located away from the jail resulted in the following floorplan was developed:

**Diagram 1**



This floorplan would allow for an officer from the participating jurisdictions to leave once the determination of release was made by PTS, thus saving the officer time from having to take the individual back to the jail facilities and wait for the prebooking to occur. Prebooking at the jail can take up to 3 hours depending on the number of individuals waiting to be processed. Given the number of vacancies currently in law enforcement, the expedited design would result in officers being able to make better use of their time to deal with potential issues back in the streets.

However, the issue of vacancies within law enforcement across the County has also significantly impacted our Sheriff’s Department. To make this design work, we would need at minimum two fulltime Sheriff deputies to be assigned to this building who would be available during operating hours to assume custody of individual rejected by PTS for release and transport them to the jail facilities. This “change of custody” from one officer to another for purposes of booking can only occur between what is referred to as Peace Officer’s Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified personnel. This means that, by law, a corrections officer or other civilian security personnel could not assume custody of an individual.

Although supportive of the model, our Sheriff’s Department has very legitimate concerns with their ability to staff this design in the timeframe we are hoping to put this plan into operation. We are currently exploring the option of hiring off-duty officers from other agencies, but there are potential issues with the daily management of individual schedules that can lead to gaps in security, which is not optimal or safe. Conversation with PTS and

the Court Administrator regarding off-duty contracting with other municipalities has begun and will continue to be explored to the acceptable approval of the courts.

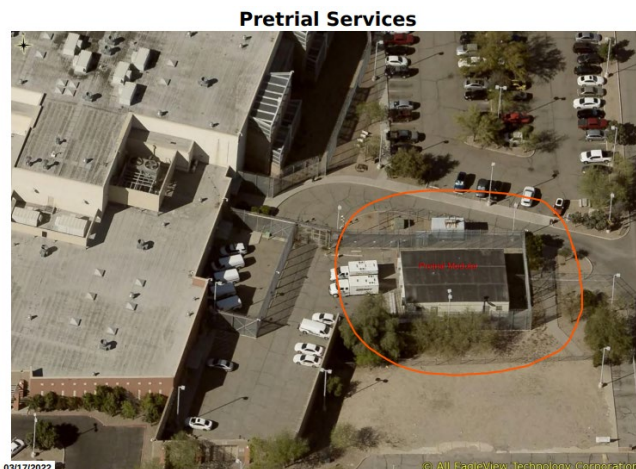
Another issue that has recently surfaced is that the technological needs of the facility. Moving the PTS operations to the Mission Annex requires the installation of specialized hardware used to access sensitive booking information. According to the Technology Division of Superior Court, the hardware is unique to PTS and is currently unavailable. The timeline they have provided us for a temporary solution will delay our operation date to the middle of March.

Given these current challenges for the use of the Mission Annex, we have begun the exploration of another option that we believe can provide similar if not better impact.

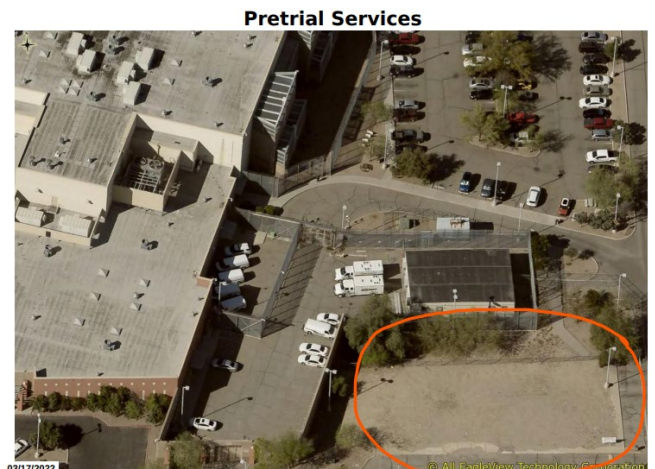
### Pretrial Services Addition

PTS is currently located in a modular right outside of the jail facilities. There is a gated entryway where law enforcement can enter with their vehicle, park, and take individuals into the PTS modular. If an individual is rejected by PTS, the prebooking function for the jail is in the same area within walking distance from PTS (see **Diagram 2** below). An alternative design would be to place another modular in the empty lot just south of the PTS modular where we could create an area specifically for service providers (see **Diagram 3** below). This would still provide a place for individuals leaving PTS to have immediate access and interaction with service providers and would require no additional security or significant changes to the current PTS design.

**Diagram 2**



**Diagram 3**



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Although making use of the Mission Annex for broader social service efforts like a detox facility is still important, there are some additional benefits to placing a service provider area closer to the jail. Currently, there are on average just over 400 individuals who are serviced through pretrial monthly with approximately fifty percent of them are rejected by PTS and booked into the jail. This means that service providers under the Mission Annex design would have the potential of seeing, on average, 7 individuals daily. A modular with closer proximity to the jail would provide the opportunity for PTS to also refer about 20 more individuals daily who are leaving the jail and are required to see PTS staff prior to being released. The majority of individuals being released through PTS within the jail are felony offenders who could benefit greatly by the wraparound support we are planning to offer the population being released by PTS through the prebooking modular. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department staff at jail have offered to assist with developing a process for referring those individuals being released from jail who are not part of the PTS release process to the modular for services, increasing the potential for impact even greater.

We are actively working with Facilities Management to provide costs and a timeline for placing a modular on the vacant land adjacent to the PTS modular. Although we have not completely abandoned the Mission Annex plan, we find it prudent to thoroughly explore this new plan as a viable alternative given the challenges we currently face with security and technology.

#### Areas of Continued Collaboration

As we continue to pursue implementation of PTS/wraparound service design, we are simultaneously looking at other efforts the County can assist with to address the concerns being raised by our business community. One notable change that is being implemented on a pilot basis with PTS and the Tucson Police Department (TPD) is that of placing zone restrictions on individuals as a condition of their release. This idea came directly from the collaborations that TPD engaged in with the business community to help prevent individuals from returning to locations where repeated issues have occurred with the same individual. This is a perfect example of a systemic change that can have a huge impact on our business community. The following are other ideas we are reviewing that have been raised by the Tucson Crime Free Coalition:

- The posting of no panhandling signs on the medians within unincorporated Pima County. There are approximately 32 signalized intersections in the unincorporated areas that were previously identified by Sheriff's Department as safety concerns related to pedestrians loitering in the median back in 2016. At that time, an ordinance was approved by the Board of Supervisors with the desire to place stickers of "no trespassing" on existing signs at those identified intersections. A new proposal would be to develop new signs that would have messaging more specific to panhandling and directing drivers to donate to social service organizations. We will follow up with our Department of Transportation and our Sheriff's Department to begin discussion on moving forward with this request. Concurrently, we also work on outreach to the

unsheltered community and service providers to provide connections with alternative resources.

- Exploring statewide ordinances related to wash inhabitants. This is of a particular concern during times of heavy rain, where unsheltered individuals who have set up encampments are placed in very dangerous situations. In addition, this results in emergency personnel having to respond to a rescue situation.
- Streamlining permits for businesses who would like to install security lighting at their buildings. There has been a concern by many businesses in the City of Tucson that there is a long wait for getting permitting approval from the Tucson Planning & Developmental Services Center to install security lighting. Although we do not have jurisdictional oversight for the City's permitting process, we have agreed that our Development Services Department can potentially collaborate with the City of Tucson to assist in their efforts in this area.

#### Conclusion

Despite some setbacks, we will continue in our efforts to expeditiously implement the PTS/wraparound service plan, prioritizing the safety of staff and approval from our Court Administrator and Presiding Judge. We will also continue our ongoing collaboration with the Tucson Crime Free Coalition; facilitating dialogue with other jurisdictions, law enforcement, and our local judicial system leaders to develop solutions and systems of accountability and support to better the future of our County.

JKL/anc

- c: The Honorable Danelle Liwski, Acting Presiding Judge  
The Honorable Laura Conover, Pima County Attorney  
The Honorable Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff  
Ronald Overholt, Court Administrator, Pima County Superior Court  
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Domingo Corona, Director, Pretrial Services Division