



---

# MEMORANDUM

---

Date: July 20, 2018

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHUCK", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Justice Reform Advisory Commission**

As recommended in my April 27, 2018 Recommended Budget Transmittal memorandum, and at Final Budget Adoption on June 19, 2018 the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of a Justice Reform Advisory Commission. This Commission will be an essential component of our efforts in criminal justice reform.

In serious policy, program or project undertakings, effective public review and participation is essential in achieving policy direction for long-term, sustainable change. Traditional efforts divide these policy and program inputs into two broad categories – 1) technical, and 2) views of the community. These efforts are classified as either a “technical advisory committee” or a “citizen’s advisory committee”.

In our efforts at criminal justice reform, it is appropriate to have input from both of these policy expertise areas. I believe the Commission satisfies the “technical advisory committee” role. The County Administrator nor the Board of Supervisors, as policymakers, have a complete and exhaustive knowledge of the existing criminal justice system sufficient enough to evaluate the many conflicting objectives of individual siloed components of the system. Hence, the need for a Commission that is composed of subject matter experts in every component of the criminal justice system (prosecution, defense, adjudication, law enforcement and criminology academia).

The reform of our criminal justice system is perhaps the most complex and difficult undertaking we have initiated. If we thought the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) was difficult and complex, reforming the criminal justice system will be dramatically more difficult than implementing the SDCP.

With this memorandum, I am providing the Board with a number of general classifications of expertise that should be included in a commission that evaluates the legal, technical and

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Justice Reform Advisory Commission**  
July 20, 2018  
Page 2

structural interrelationships of the system to recommend long lasting change and reform. With this public policy technical committee, the Justice Reform Advisory Commission, the Board may also wish to appoint a citizen's commission that has a more practical and visceral approach to criminal justice system reform.

I will leave it to the Board as to whether you would like to appoint a parallel citizen committee to help advance the significant policy objective of meaningful, long-term criminal justice reform in Pima County.

I suggest the Board consider the following general categories to include in a Justice Commission:

- 1) A retired Arizona Supreme Court Justice;
- 2) a retired Superior Court Judge with significant Criminal Bench experience;
- 3) a retired Federal Judge or Magistrate;
- 4) a retired elected County Attorney;
- 5) a retired US Attorney;
- 6) a retired command level law enforcement officer from the Sheriff's Department;
- 7) a retired command-level law enforcement officer from the Tucson Police Department;
- 8) a retired Court Administrator;
- 9) a criminologist from a university level institution;
- 10) a retired Public Defender;
- 11) a member of the community who has served on the Arizona Supreme Court and Justice for All Commission;
- 12) a retired attorney in private practice, specializing in criminal defense; and
- 13) a formerly incarcerated person.

Finally, to allow open and frank discussion by the Commission, I will be making the appointments for the Justice Reform Advisory Commission so detailed compliance with the Open Meeting Law will not be required.

CHH/anc

Attachment

## **Pima County Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Commission Purpose Statement**

July 20, 2018

### **Purpose**

The Commission shall:

- a) advise the County Administrator and the County Administrator's Criminal Justice Reform Unit in conducting a comprehensive review of the Pima County existing criminal justice and sentencing structure, sentencing practices, community supervision, the use of alternatives to incarceration, and community engagement including, but not limited to:
  - The lengths of incarceration and community supervision that result from the current sentencing structure, and the incentives or barriers to the appropriate utilization of alternatives to incarceration;
  - The impact of sentencing guidelines upon Pima County's criminal justice system, including county jail capacity, community supervision resources, judicial operations, and law enforcement responsibilities;
  - The relation that a sentence or other criminal sanction has to public safety and the likelihood of recidivism;
  - The existing statutory provisions by which an offender is sentenced to or can be released from incarceration;
  - The existing statutory provisions as to their uniformity, certainty, consistency, and adequacy;
  - The extent to which education, job training, and re-entry preparation programs can both facilitate the readiness of the formerly incarcerated to transition into the community and reduce recidivism;
  - The anticipated future trends in sentencing;
  - The advancement of knowledge of relevant issues, research and best-practices in the fields of reentry, public safety realignment, and justice; and
  - The development of a public outreach, information sharing and community engagement strategy.
- b) make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding policy and budget considerations for each criminal justice system agency or department of the County.
- c) make specific findings and recommendations regarding the organization and structure of County criminal justice system and the operation of any component of the system subject to statutory and constitutional restrictions.

### **Mission Statement**

The Commission exists to advise the Pima County Administrator and the justice community with respect to improving criminal justice system outcomes and access to justice. Consistent with these goals, the Commission seeks to improve the administration of justice and the fairness in delivering criminal justice services in Pima County, Arizona.

## **Core Values of Commission**

**Integrity:** This value represents our commitment to truth in all of its forms and in all of our actions. We value consistency, transparency, and accountability for what we say and what we do, as individuals, as professionals, and as an organization.

**Diversity:** This value represents our commitment to ensuring that the justice system reflect the community it serves in all of its social, economic, and geographical diversity.

**Promoting Justice:** This value represents our commitment to ensuring that everyone has appropriate access to the justice system.

## **Meetings and Members**

The Commission shall meet on a quarterly basis and will be made up of individuals in the community who have a recognized interest, commitment and knowledge of the criminal justice system. Commission members will be appointed by the County Administrator. In the event they are needed, this group may select certain members to form certain committees to address specific problems or issues that the Commission members deem important.

The Commission shall have at least eight (8) and no more than ten (10) members and shall include a cross system of stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Law Enforcement
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Defense Attorneys
- Members of Community
- Academic Experts in Criminology