



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 6, 2021

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

From: Jan Leshner 
Chief Deputy County Administrator

Re: **Impact of Public Health Requirements on Jail Personnel and Jail Population**

The Board of Supervisors adopted a policy on October 19, 2021, providing that on January 1, 2022, those employees who have been identified as working with vulnerable populations must be fully vaccinated or face termination if an accommodation is not possible. Currently we have a substantial number of corrections officers who work in the Pima County Adult Detention Center, and are therefore subject to this vaccine requirement, who are not fully vaccinated. Should this be the case on January 1, there may be fewer corrections officer, which may result in a need to reduce the PCADC population.

I have asked the leadership of the criminal justice system, including the Sheriff and the Court, to participate in a working group to determine how the jail population might be reduced safely. In addition, I have asked Ellen Wheeler, retired Assistant County Administrator for Justice and Law Enforcement, to assist on contract in convening this working group. The Working Group will be meeting Wednesday, December 8, to discuss options, some of which were employed effectively at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020.

When Ms. Wheeler was employed by the County, she was the architect of the first MacArthur grant, which has provided significant funding for Pima County's ongoing efforts to reduce unnecessary incarceration. My intent is that Ms. Wheeler's participation will be short-term while we identify an individual who has knowledge of the systems and who can focus solely on this effort going forward.

I am hopeful that once we are past the immediate efforts to reduce the jail population in connection with the vaccine mandate, we will continue to work to reduce unnecessary use of incarceration in Pima County.

c: The Honorable Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Monica Perez, Chief Assistant to the County Administrator