




MEMORANDUM

Date: June 10, 2015

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Superior and Juvenile Courts Budget Reconciliation**

At Tentative Budget Adoption, I indicated that I and staff would meet with the Superior and Juvenile Courts to resolve concerns regarding their budget and the amounts recommended as expenditure limits for the General Fund components of their budgets. This meeting occurred on June 5, 2015.

I am pleased to report an agreement has been reached whereby the expenditure caps on both budgets will not be increased; the supplemental budget request will not be approved; and position control authorization will be given to both the Superior and Juvenile Courts to continue existing programs. The Courts will manage their programs to stay within the expenditure caps.

In addition, I will not require the Juvenile Court budget to absorb the State cost transfer for State Juvenile Corrections of \$1,840,289. Based on the present law and language in the State budget, this is a one-time expense; and I will recommend our budget ending fund balance of \$32,110,202 be reduced by this amount to \$30,269,913.

At the June 5 meeting, it was also determined that if this now planned one-time cost transfer recurs for multiple years, we will ask to be excused from the cost allocation and, in exchange, the County will not send any juveniles to the State. Last year, we sent 33 juveniles to the State; this year, to date, we have sent seven juveniles.

We are substantially overpaying for the benefit that would accrue to the County for this cost; therefore, it is prudent we do not send any additional juveniles to the State facility. We believe we can provide the necessary services for these juveniles at significantly reduced costs to the taxpayer. In fact, we recommend to the State that they abolish their Department of Juvenile Corrections and save approximately \$45 million. Obviously, if smaller counties cannot provide the same diversion and/or detention services that are available in Pima County, we would certainly entertain the option of contracting with them for these services through an intergovernmental agreement similar to that for the Restoration to Competency program we now operate for five additional counties.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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I have suggested to our colleagues in Maricopa County that they adopt a similar position.

CHH/anc

- c: The Honorable Sally Simmons, Presiding Judge, Superior Court
- The Honorable Kathleen Quigley, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
- The Honorable Kyle Bryson, Associate Presiding Judge, Superior Court
- Kent Batty, Court Administrator, Superior Court
- Tina Mattison, Deputy Court Administrator, Juvenile Court
- Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
- Robert Johnson, Budget Manager, Finance and Risk Management