

We, the members of the Contra Costa County Racial Justice Oversight Body, recommend that the Board of Supervisors call for significant reduction of the number of people incarcerated in our county jails. As the County continues to face unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19, it needs to address the underlying inequities, public health system inadequacies, and racial biases that bring far too many people into contact with the justice system.

To that end, we recommend the Board of Supervisors endorse the following actions proposed in the Joint Statement from Elected Prosecutors on COVID-19 and Addressing the Rights and Needs of Those in Custody, dated March 25, 2020.

- Implement cite and release policies for offenses which pose no immediate physical threat to the community.
- Release all individuals who are being detained solely because they can't afford cash bail, unless they pose a serious risk to public safety.
- Reduce the jail population to ensure that there are sufficient medical quarantine beds, and enough staff, to promote the health and safety of staff, those incarcerated, and visitors.
- Identify and release the following people immediately, unless doing so would pose a serious risk to the physical safety of the community:
 - Individuals who are elderly;
 - Populations that the CDC has classified as vulnerable (those with asthma, cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes);
 - People in local jails who are within 6 months of completing their sentence; and
 - People incarcerated due to technical violations of probation and parole.
- Revisit past lengthy sentences and support release for those individuals who can safely return to the community.

These reforms are long overdue and they will help make Contra Costa County more just, safe, and healthy.