



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RICHARD VALLE  
Supervisor, District 2

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 14, 2021

TO: Each Member, Board of Supervisors  
Each Member, Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee

FROM: Richard Valle, Supervisor *RV*

CC: Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Donna Ziegler, County Counsel

RE: Reimagining Adult Justice

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Alameda is at the forefront of implementing progressive criminal justice policies that have resulted in the elimination of Sheriff, Probation, and Public Defender fees for adults, as well as the elimination of justice fees for juveniles. Over \$40 million in outstanding justice fees were also eliminated. We successfully prepared for the implementation of SB 823, and our juveniles will no longer be sent to a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facility. A subcommittee chaired by the Interim Chief Probation Officer, Marcus Dawal, and comprised of county and community partners are working on the formal plan to address the housing, treatment, services, supervision and reentry of the DJJ realigned population for youth committed to a secure facility.

Our next important step in our justice reform efforts is to re-imagine adult justice in Alameda County and build on the progressive justice programs designed to support re-entry, reduce recidivism and prevent victimization. As part of the Board's discussion during the adoption of the Care First Jails Last resolution, Public Protection Committee was requested to "look at safe ways of immediately beginning to reduce our inmate population such as through dropping the federal contract and looking at any prudent opportunities for pre-trial release...[and] also examine the arrest patterns of City police in our County." To conduct this review my Office is in the process of bringing retired Probation Chief, Wendy Still back to assist in guiding this process for Public Protection Committee.

The Cares First Jails Last Task Force, Justice Involved Mental Health Task Force, Results First Program Review, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council are just a few of the many groups and efforts underway that each of your departments are engaged in to continue to improve our systems of care. Our county is also engaged in litigation that impacts our program and service delivery. These items collectively present us with an opportunity to reimagine adult justice.

The initial review of pre-trial, local arrest data, and the federal contract to hold detainees at Santa Rita Jail should be viewed as a starting point in a review to Reimagine Adult Justice (RAJ). As an initial step to RAJ, I believe Public Protection Committee should take advantage of existing county structures and direct the Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee (CCPEC), chaired by Chief Dawal, to assess and inventory current existing justice related diversion programs and identify gaps and opportunities that will reduce reliance on incarceration.

Elements of the review will include:

1. What is the actual cost impact to Alameda County of the contract to house federal inmates?
2. Should Alameda County's federal contract at SRJ be terminated?
3. An assessment of Alameda County's pre-trial hold rate and a comparison to other similar counties and can the pre-trial program be permanently established and expanded to reduce the jail population?
4. What are the arrest rates in each police jurisdiction in Alameda County?
5. What new health related opportunities exist for to apply a health-related lens to justice and what funding opportunities exist to fund a new model or transform the existing justice model?
6. What opportunities exist to reduce the Alameda County's Jail populations and costs?
7. What information does the existing jail population analysis provide to assist in this RAJ effort?
8. Can investments in RAJ efforts mitigate or eliminate the need to increase jail staffing and jail capital expenditures? How does the current jail litigation impact the alternatives?
9. What jail data is currently available that can assist in this project's analysis of alternatives and existing populations.
10. What programs exist in the jail and what are the outcomes of the programs? Can additional investments in jail programming and reentry result in decreased costs? Part of the cost benefit analysis should include a literature review of correctional program opportunities and the anticipated return on investment for any suggested new or program modifications.
11. How does the new model address and achieve reductions of racial disparities in the Alameda County justice system?
12. How can/should a Sheriff oversight body or Inspector General be designed into the new RAJ?

To avoid duplication of effort the CCPEC should maximize existing processes underway with the Care First Jails Last Workgroup, the Results First Program Review, and other efforts to assist in development of this review. The CCPEC shall provide regular updates to Public Protection Committee on the progress of the review and deliver its completed report to this Committee by March 2022 and the full Board by April 2022.

With respect with bullet point #1, the Sheriff's Office shall present on this topic at the September 9, 2021 Public Protection Committee. Any information can subsequently be incorporated into the overall review. The CCPEC is requested to consider this proposal at their next available meeting and present at the September 9, 2021 Public Protection Committee on a plan, timeline, and any resources required to conduct this review.