

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Public Outreach Committee was held on Friday, August 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: James Conlogue, Chair; Frank Antenori, Committee Member; David DiPeso, Committee Member; Kay Gojkovich, Committee Member; Tony Isom, Committee Member; Jennifer Lakosil, Committee Member; Katie Miller, Committee Member; Eric Petermann, Committee Member; Paul Sheats, Committee Member, virtual

Absent: Danya Acosta, Vice-Chair; Jon Kosmider, Committee Member; John Pintek, Committee Member

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Tim Williams, Sergeant
Ariel Monge, Detention Officer Lieutenant

Chair Conlogue called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

1. Report from Ms. Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator, regarding a Committee Member's appointment as an interim Cochise County staff member.

Ms. Gilman reported that Committee Member Lakosil was appointed Interim Director of Clinical Services at Cochise Health & Social Services; she oversees Public Health Nurses, but not Jail Medical. The interim appointment is expected to last six weeks.

2. Report from Ms. Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator, on a correction to an August 7, 2022 *Herald/Review* article regarding funding for the Jail project.

Ms. Gilman reported that a recent article in the *Herald/Review* included a statement that the County had received \$100 million in funding for the Jail project. In actuality, \$20 million was appropriated to the County to construct a new County Jail Facility. A provision requires that the funding shall not be distributed until the County has raised sufficient funding for the remainder of the project. Monies that remain unexpended and unencumbered on June 30, 2027 will revert to the state. She expressed appreciation to

Representative Gail Griffin for sponsoring the appropriations bill and Sheriff Dannels for his efforts.

3. Action to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of August 5, 2022.

Committee Member Gojkovich made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of August 5, 2022. Committee Member Miller seconded the motion and it carried on a voice vote 8-0 (Vice-Chair Acosta and Committee Members Kosmider and Pintek absent; Committee Member Sheats not yet present).

4. Presentation by Sheriff Mark Dannels and Sergeant Tim Williams and discussion re: Crime and Immigration Briefing.

Sheriff Dannels introduced the item and stated that thousands of individuals pass through the jail annually and that Jail Districts sunset after 25 years. He discussed in detail illegal activity at the border, noting that enforcement is a matter of public safety, national security, and humanitarian concern, and reviewed border infrastructure. He reviewed the number of border encounters seen on the camera system last year, the number of individuals seen but who got away, and the number of deaths. From January to July, 2022, 617, or approximately 30% of all bookings, were border-related, and from March through June, 2022, Jail costs for border-related bookings were approximately \$898,000. He reviewed statistics for border-related pursuits and stated that 23 juvenile United States citizens were booked into the Jail from January through July, 2022.

Committee Member Antenori raised a point of order and expressed his concern that the information provided is not relevant to the Jail District discussion. He stated that he wants to understand why the jail is needed and listed information that he is seeking, including: requirements to house inmates and the length of time they are housed; length of average stay; average occupancy; number of deputies needed; type of facilities; jail standards; the definition of a minimal humane standard and the cost for the minimal requirement; the impact to taxpayers; and, a cost-benefit analysis. Sheriff Dannels noted that Commander Bradshaw presented information during Executive Session on August 5, 2022, and that today's presentation is limited to the agenda. Chair Conlogue requested that staff make arrangements to provide the Executive Session information to Committee Member Antenori. Chair Conlogue noted that future agenda items include the fee per person, national standards for Jails, and a tour of the Jail facility.

Committee Member Sheats joined the meeting virtually at 9:16 a.m.

Sergeant Williams presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Committee throughout the presentation. The camera system runs from New Mexico to California. The size of Cochise County causes logistical issues, such as transportation and lack of cell phone and radio coverage in certain areas; due to the County's size, he stressed the importance of keeping the satellite jails in Sierra Vista and Willcox operational. He reviewed activities of the Southeastern Arizona Border Region Enforcement task force (SABRE); since the camera system was implemented in 2017, over 100,000 undocumented individuals have been seen on camera. Methamphetamine smuggling is becoming more prevalent. Individuals caught by the Sheriff's Office go to the Jail; once sentenced, they are moved to a prison. A plea agreement program named Early Resolution Court (ERC) reduces the time that individuals spend in the Jail before starting their prison sentence.

In response to the Committee, Sergeant Williams discussed ERC and its benefits in

further detail. Chair Conlogue discussed ERC from the Court perspective and confirmed that ERC significantly reduced the stay time in Jail. Lieutenant Monge discussed the number of repeat offenders, which is contributing to the Jail population spike. The number of individuals who spend one night in the Jail brings the average number of days in the Jail down to five or six days.

Sergeant Williams continued the presentation, reviewing significant arrests and prosecution by the County. In response to Committee discussion, Chair Conlogue stated that in his experience sentences from the County are longer than those imposed by the federal government. Sergeant Williams discussed juveniles smuggling drugs and an article in the *Los Angeles Times*. Juveniles caught by the County will be prosecuted and sentenced. Sergeant Williams noted a pattern of increased violence in encounters and stressed the importance of prosecution.

Sergeant Williams displayed pictures of various illegal activities, noting logistical issues in areas with no cell or radio coverage. He discussed various methods used to avoid detection or to assist in illegal crossings, such as the use of ladders to bypass the border wall. Fiber optics that would detect objects against the border wall are inactive. He reviewed the number of undocumented individuals seen on the camera system and the number of individuals apprehended by month.

Sheriff Dannels discussed recent legislation addressing human smuggling that provides an enforcement tool to law enforcement. Sheriff Dannels discussed ramifications to the County, noting that between 900 to 1,000 smugglers come through the County monthly and there now being an enforcement mechanism in place. The Committee, Sheriff Dannels and Sergeant Williams discussed the impact to the County criminal justice system, including the Sheriff's Office, Jail, Court, and prosecution and defense offices. It is anticipated that the ERC process will apply to individuals apprehended under the new law. In response to Committee discussion, Ms. Gilman stated that Mr. Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, is looking at the entire process and the impact to all aspects, including the Court, Sheriff, Jail, and prosecution and defense offices.

Sergeant Williams continued the presentation, displaying sample photographs showing methods individuals use to try to avoid detection. He reviewed the number of undocumented individuals seen on the camera system from 2019 through 2022, stressing that the numbers continue to increase. He reviewed the camera system in detail, including functionality and the signal range. There are over 600 cameras currently deployed; the National Guard currently monitors the cameras, and artificial intelligence is used so that only certain items are displayed. Sergeant Williams has a total of five permanent staff, including himself.

Sergeant Williams discussed the humanitarian aspect in instances such as smuggling children, and the history of SABRE catching individuals smuggling drugs. He reviewed tactics used by individuals smuggling drugs and the challenges law enforcement faces. Potential new technology includes electromagnetic pulse systems to safely stop vehicles. Reckless driving is a new challenge; he reviewed the current techniques and methods used to recruit drivers for smuggling purposes. He displayed statistics of various crimes and citations, noting those that are new, such as Failure to Yield.

The Committee discussed the impact of illegal border activity and the operations Sergeant Williams reviewed on the Jail.

Sheriff Dannels reviewed grant funding and staff positions paid for by state funding.

5. Next Committee Meeting Date: September 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Conlogue noted that the next meeting date is September 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Member Antenori requested an item be placed on agendas for the Committee to discuss and request information from staff.

Chair Conlogue adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Judge James Conlogue (Ret.), Chair

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board