

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman, telephonic; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Daniel Duchon, Emergency Services Director

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the rescinding of Title 42 and its impacts in Cochise County.

Mr. Duchon presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. On May 8, 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) started releases in Douglas and Naco. He reviewed the number of projected releases for Douglas and Naco, noting that the numbers never came to fruition. On May 8, 2023, the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) started its transportation mission, taking individuals to non-profit organizations in Tucson and Phoenix. May 11, 2023 was the final day of Title 42 removals, and street releases continued through May 19, 2023.

Mr. Duchon reviewed terms including street releases, which were directly to the DEMA transportation program, and unsheltered releases, which were releases without prearranged shelter or transportation. The fear was of unsheltered releases; however, that did not happen in the County. He noted that releases in the County peaked right before May 11, 2023. Over the course of the next week, the number of releases steadily dropped before ending on May 19. The total number of releases in the County over the 11-day period was 2,336.

Mr. Duchon stated that individuals have been released to Pima County non-profits for quite some time. CBP data for the Southwest Border shows that Tucson had approximately 180,000 releases and El Paso approximately 307,000.

The Board and Mr. Duchon discussed Title 8, which has a different set of repercussions, being in effect again and the preparation by the various counties and

agencies. The Board recognized Pima County and DEMA for their commitment and dedication of resources. In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon confirmed that the agencies are still ready if anything were to happen.

The Board discussed the media's messaging, noting that Yuma County Supervisor Tony Reyes' message of this not being a crisis seemed to be lost. Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed his concern with current circumstances and stated this amnesty is the largest to date. The Board discussed their role in immigration, noting A.R.S. § 11-1051.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board