

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
HOLLY MITCHELL

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Jail Population Review Council’s Data Dashboard

For years, the Los Angeles County (County) jail facilities have been severely overcrowded with an average total daily population well above the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) rated capacity of 12,404. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the various County justice partners collaborated to quickly and safely decrease the jail population within weeks. For the first time in years, the County’s average daily population dropped below the BSCC rated capacity, hitting a low of 11,765 in May 2020.

Recognizing that overcrowded jail facilities contribute to unhealthy and unsafe conditions for everyone involved, the Board of Supervisors (Board) voted in September 2020 to establish the Jail Population Review Council (JPRC), chaired by the Office of Diversion and Reentry, with the goal of maintaining a reduced jail population beneath the BSCC rated capacity beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Around the same time, the Board voted to pursue demolishing the outdated and decrepit Men’s Central Jail, which requires additional population reductions, and tasked the JPRC with closely monitoring the jail population trends and working towards those reductions in order to make the Men’s

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Central Jail closure possible.

The work of the JPRC has become even more important as the jail population once again surpassed the BSCC rated capacity in July 2020 and has remained around 15,000 for the past few months. In order for the justice partners in the JPRC to work towards reducing the jail population back to beneath the BSCC rated capacity, they need to understand the breakdown of the jail population so that policy directives and diversion initiatives can target areas that will most effectively impact the total average daily population.

Last year, the JPRC partnered with the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) to organize and analyze jail population data from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). Using LASD's daily jail population numbers, Vera has created the "Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration" data dashboard, that breaks down and analyzes the County's jail population on a daily basis. The goal of this dashboard is to show how the jail population has changed over time, which sectors have contributed to the recent increase in the population, and which sectors can safely be targeted for diversion initiatives to help decarcerate the jails. This dashboard is an important tool for the JPRC to use as they continue to collaborate to decrease the jail population, and it is an important tool for the public to be able to access in order to promote transparency and encourage collaboration with partners outside of the County. It is time for Vera's "Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration" data dashboard to be published and made available on the County's open data portal and for it to be presented to the JPRC, Alternatives to Incarceration, Public Safety Realignment Team, and other jail reduction initiatives to aid in their work to decarcerate Los Angeles County.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Diversion and Reentry's Jail Population Review Council, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Information Office, to:

1. Publish the "Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration" data dashboard and link it on the County's open data portal;
2. Present the "Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration" data dashboard at the public May 19, 2021, meeting of the Jail Population Review Council; and
3. Utilize the "Care First L.A.: Tracking Jail Decarceration" data dashboard in their continued work to reduce the County's jail population to below the Board of State and Community Corrections rated capacity.

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