FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court
FEB 02 2022
By: A. Cabrales

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

IN RE: 60-DAY ACCELERATED RELEASE OF SENTENCED COUNTY JAIL INMATES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	**GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING DEPARTMENT** **ORDER NO. 020222-49**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of California declared a state of emergency in this state. The President of the United States has also declared a national emergency. The health and safety concerns associated with the pandemic, along with the State of California and County of San Diego public health orders issued in response thereto, have caused substantial operational impediments for the court and other agencies. Although the State of California eased or lifted many of the COVID-19-related restrictions in June 2021, which allowed businesses and public entities, including the court, to generally return to usual operations, correctional and detention facilities are still considered to be at high risk for COVID-19 transmission.

In addition, on March 20, 2020, the Chief Justice of California issued an advisory recommending steps superior courts could take to mitigate the spread of the virus. Courts were

"strongly encourage[d]" to "[w]ith the assistance of justice partners, identify those persons currently in county jail or juvenile hall custody who have less than 60 days remaining on their jail sentence for the purpose of modifying their sentences to permit early release of such persons with or without supervision or to community-based organizations for treatment."

Finally, beginning in March 2020, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at times severely restricted, and for some periods entirely suspended, the intake of inmates into the state prison. The number of inmates in quarantine in local custody has also affected the San Diego County Sheriff's ability to transfer inmates to state custody. The San Diego County Sheriff is currently housing 456 inmates committed to state prison.

Based on the above, there is an immediate and continuing need to protect the health and safety of the jail population and staff, by reducing the jail population, in order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. To accomplish this goal, and in accord with the Chief Justice's advisory of March 20, 2020, this court hereby authorizes the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to accelerate the release of sentenced county jail inmates up to 60 days from when they would otherwise be released, except that no inmate may receive the benefit of early release pursuant to both this order and Penal Code § 4024.1.

In addition to any other notice required by law, the Sheriff's Department shall, no later than 24 hours prior to the release of any inmate pursuant to this order, notify the San Diego District Attorney, the San Diego City Attorney, and the San Diego Office of the Public Defender. The Sheriff shall insure that notification procedures made pursuant to VINE reflect the accelerated release dates.

This Order is effective February 8, 2022, through March 9, 2022, inclusive.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: February 2, 2022

HON. MICHAEL T. SMYTH
PRESIDING JUDGE