

**From:** Stan Santos <alianzadefresno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2020 8:39 AM  
**To:** BOSComments  
**Subject:** Board Meeting Public Comment

-e: Board Meeting of 8/04/2020  
Item Number 5 and 6 under Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator

Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors:

I am a constituent resident of District 3 of Fresno County. I am writing with dismay regarding the administration of the Fresno County Jail and related responsibilities of Sheriff Margaret Mims.

Sheriff Mims has implemented a policy which has created inhumane conditions at the jail for both inmates and staff. There was an outbreak of COVID-19 at the jail which caused the loved ones of the several hundred infected inmates and staff to gather outside the jail and appeal to the public. They subsequently filed multiple Writs of Habeas Corpus to seek relief.

This has created a risk to human lives and the potential to overload the local health care system, which is at its breaking point. If these concerns are not addressed, it could also cause death and a greater tragedy, affecting the families of the inmates, regardless of the severity of their crime. In many cases, they are there due to the inability to make bail and seek adequate representation.

The Fresno County Jail, Administrators and the County Board of Supervisors are now the subject of charges regarding violations of the Sanctuary Act of the State of California. This is due to the de facto transfer of inmates, again, regardless of the severity of their crimes, to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. There have been hundreds of illegal transfers between 2018 and 2019 alone, and that practice continues, outside of the eyes of the public.

Now, Sheriff Mims is asking for an augmentation of the budget for the jail, to mitigate conditions which have been substandard for many months. The Board is also being asked to enter into a no-bid contract with Pinnacle Training Systems, which claims to be a provider of "Health promotion programs throughout the State of California." It appears they have the most expertise in sports related fitness programs.

This adds to a long list of issues which should concern the public throughout Fresno County. While the community is suffering from the physical, emotional and economic effects of the current pandemic with no end in sight, Fresno County is struggling with basic mitigation. You are asking to expand the Jail budget by \$3,256,970 for this fiscal year. Meanwhile, you are entering into a non competitive contract for \$2,665,600 for coronavirus testing.

Residents of Fresno County should strongly object to this continued mishandling of the pandemic and related consequences. There should be a forum to discuss the strategic plans of Fresno County to address these concerns. Finally, there must be transparency and the ability of the public to engage in the discussion, without fear due to the pandemic which this time continues unabated.

Thanks you,  
Stan Santos  
559-908-6701