

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-029

Whereas, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Corona virus a pandemic;

Whereas, COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and can spread easily from person-to-person;

Whereas, as of March 17, 2020 there are three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Missoula County and 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Montana and health authorities anticipate additional cases;

Whereas, the detention center includes 224 beds in the county-side of its facility that holds pre-trial inmates and inmates sentenced for felonies to the Montana Department of Corrections who have not yet been transported from the detention center by the Montana Department of Corrections;

Whereas, it is likely that the Montana Department of Corrections will transfer sentenced inmates at a slower pace for the next few months and as a result, the detention center will see overcrowding, which is especially detrimental to attempts to slow the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, taking fewer inmates into the detention center may reduce chance of the spread of COVID-19 in the detention center and help to protect detention center staff;

Whereas, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. 7-32-2242 conditions on use of the detention center may be imposed by the governing body responsible for the detention center;

Whereas, the Missoula County commissioners have delegated operation of the detention center to the Missoula County Sheriff;

Whereas, the Missoula County Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for Missoula County elected to handle matters of public safety;

THEREFORE NOW BE IT RESOLVED:

Effective immediately, the Missoula County detention center will not accept individuals into the detention center who have been charged, but not convicted of non-violent misdemeanor offenses under state laws and/or city ordinances.

Effective immediately, the Missoula County detention center will not accept individuals into the detention center who have been arrested based on a warrant for failure to appear for court dates related to non-violent misdemeanor offenses under state laws and/or city ordinances.

The Sheriff has discretion to exercise his authority to make determinations relating to public safety and operation of the detention center, and provide notice of those determinations to affected law enforcement agencies and the community.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County, Montana, this 18th day of March, 2020.

Missoula County Sheriff

TJ McDermott

TJ McDermott

Attest:



Tyler R. Gerhart
Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer

by James Hill
as Deputy

Missoula County Commissioners:

Josh Slotnick
Josh Slotnick, Chair

NOT AVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

Juanita Vero

David Strohmaier
David Strohmaier