American Jail Association Resolution

Pretrial Services

WHEREAS, jails are populated by a majority of individuals in a pretrial status, and

WHEREAS, pretrial services can provide neutral and objective information required to make an appropriate release recommendation to the court by utilizing tools. These tools include objective risk and needs screening instruments, and

WHEREAS, crowded jails present a safety concern for jail administration and officer safety, and

WHEREAS, pretrial supervision can be a safe and cost effective alternative to jail for those awaiting trial, and

WHEREAS, pretrial conditions offer access to services such as substance abuse and mental health treatment, often resulting in diversion programs in lieu of prosecution and thereby decreasing jail populations, while commercial sureties do not, and

WHEREAS, pretrial services personnel compile reports on those they supervise, noting compliance with conditions, while commercial sureties do not.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association recognize the value of high-functioning pretrial services agencies to enhance public and officer safety, safeguard the judicial process, and aid jail administrators in safely managing jail populations.

Adopted on March 4, 2020, by the AJA Board of Directors.