

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
March 3, 2026

Jail Closure Implementation Team: Closing Men’s Central Jail Through Depopulation, Accountability, and Other Key Strategies

In June 2021, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to create a unit called the Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT)¹ to be the County’s lead on the safe depopulation and decarceration efforts to close, with no new jail replacement, one of the most notorious jails in the country, Men’s Central Jail (MCJ).

In 2019, the Board rejected jail replacement plans² that included a 2013 plan to use Mira Loma Detention Facility (MLDF), an immigration detention facility, for a “Women’s Village” for women who were incarcerated due to issues with distance, lack of service providers, and the high risk of incarcerated people and staff contracting Valley Fever – a dangerous fungal infection that is still present even today. The Board has long embraced and instituted “care first, jails last” initiatives and programs knowing that people “don’t get well in a cell” and that there is more harm that comes out of incarceration versus intervention, restoration, and adequate reentry supports.

In the five years of JCIT’s existence, it was placed in the Chief Executive Office (CEO) then moved to the then newly created Justice, Care, and Opportunities

¹ <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JCIT-Motion.pdf>

² <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-12-26/jails-versus-alternatives-to-incarceration>

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Department (JCOD), and then back to the CEO when the Board was unsatisfied with the lack of progress on developing a timeline and specific strategies towards safe depopulation to close MCJ. While at the CEO, JCIT was renamed, without Board approval, to the Community Safety Implementation Team (CSIT), which detracts from the core reason of why it was created in the first place – to safely close MCJ with no new jail replacement.

For years, the County has been straddled with numerous lawsuits, community complaints, settlements, and negative press criticizing what continues to happen in MCJ: abuse, uses of force, deaths in custody, allegations of sexual assault and harassment, overdoses, and many others. During the pandemic, the jail population significantly reduced from 17-18,000 people incarcerated to almost 12,000. Since then and with the overturning of Proposition 47 being replaced with Proposition 36 in 2024, the population has risen to 14,000.

The Board is also accountable to the community on its “care first, jails last” goal and thus, JCIT and the other County departments who are tasked and responsible with identifying and implementing key strategies and creating feasible timelines are as well. Just as the 2021 motion indicated, the closure of MCJ has been studied, data collected, modeling tools created and used, yet plans for closure fall short and we are left with reports back summarizing discussions about what next should be. What is lacking and continues to lack as evident by the continued, ominous presence of MCJ is that specific plans with achievable and measurable metrics timelines to hold the work accountable is inadequate.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office’s (CEO) Community Safety Implementation Team (CSIT) to immediately reinstate

their former name as the Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT) to better align with the Board's priority of safely closing Men's Central Jail.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct CSIT, henceforth known as JCIT to:

1. Report back to the Board in 30 days with timelines on when the next steps in their most recent January 16 report will be expected to be completed, but not limited to:
 - a. Barrier: Post-Release Community Supervision - A timeline on when the Memorandum of Understanding between Probation and the Justice Care and Opportunities Department will be signed.
 - b. Barrier: Delays in expert appointments - A timeline on when CEO will have the identified option for developing recommendations including the list of potential funding sources.
 - c. Barrier: Service Navigation Gaps - A timeline on when JCIT and the Public Defender's office will have completed refining performance targets to guide implementation of the Holistic Early Assessment and Linkage (HEAL) Program.
 - d. Barrier: Electronic evidence: A timeline on when JCIT and the Case Prosecuting Workgroup will have developed strategies to maximize efficiency in sharing and reviewing electronic discovery materials.
 - e. Barrier: Increase the number of early releases - A timeline on when JCIT and justice partners will identify the appropriate metrics to measure the impact of the San Fernando Courthouse pilot.
2. In the next quarterly report, and every report, thereafter, provide timelines with specific dates on when the next steps are expected to be completed, including the identification of the lead departments and what actionable steps JCIT is taking to

assist.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to remove any Delegated Authority given to JCIT to use any designated funds until further notice. Until then, JCIT will report to the Board, in writing, requesting approval.

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