

March 20, 2020

Dear Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police,

I've asked been asked by Sheriff Snaza and Steve Strachan to work closely with our jails across the state to encourage prosecutors and courts to continue to work for appropriate reductions to their jail populations in order to conserve resources. Opening up beds also ensures there's a place for persons who pose a significant risk to public safety.

I'm sure you're already aware that staffing levels are beginning to be affected by this pandemic. I will be working with agencies who are considering mutual aid agreements in order to consolidate and share resources when it becomes necessary. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with your ideas, your concerns or needs if you feel I can be of service.

My weekly calls with all of the jail commanders continue and would like to commend them and their staff for their willingness to face these issues head on and openly share ideas, but I'm most impressed by their willingness to work closer together. This is truly the time to help each other. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but to balance the health and safety of our community.

Regards,

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