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Pike County Correctional Facility COVID-19 Update

PIKE COUNTY, PA – To ensure the dissemination of factual and transparent information regarding the status of individuals at the Pike County Correctional Facility (PCCF) in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Pike County Commissioners share the following update.

As of April 6, seven (7) PCCF inmates have tested positive for COVID-19. One of these inmates had been admitted to a local hospital, and passed away on April 5. Another of these inmates had been furloughed as part of recent mitigation measures implemented by the Prison Board, was transported to a local hospital upon release, and passed away. The Pike County Commissioners and Coroner were in contact with the Wayne County Coroner, who confirmed the cause of death of both individuals as COVID-19.

Five of the inmates who have tested positive are under quarantine, along with all other inmates housed within their respective PCCF Units.

Seven (7) PCCF staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals are currently isolated at home.

All staff members and all inmates are required to wear face masks. Inmates/detainees are temperature-checked and assessed daily by medical staff for symptoms. Inmates/detainees within quarantined Units are assessed twice per day by medical staff as outlined above. Inmates/detainees testing positive for COVID-19 are increased to assessments three times per day. These assessments include obtaining full

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sets of vital signs, offering fluids with each assessment, and assessing for new/continued symptoms.

Staff members are symptom and temperature-checked upon arrival to the facility.

Elevated facility cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing protocols which had been in place will continue.

All those in the facility are reminded to frequently wash their hands, and to cover their coughs and sneezes. Staff members have been advised to immediately report any illnesses, of either staff members or inmates/detainees, to a Supervisor.

PCCF personnel are following all of the established COVID-19 mitigation protocols endorsed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and have ongoing communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

PCCF Prison Board members implemented additional measures to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the Pike County Correctional Facility.

To protect both staff members and inmates/detainees, strategies were implemented to reduce exposure vectors for the transmission of COVID-19 amongst all those who work or are housed in the facility.

The Pike County Correctional Facility Warden prepared inmate incarceration data and delivered it to the Pike County District Attorney and the Pike County Solicitor to enable a review of low-level offenders for consideration of early release on furlough, parole, bail reduction and/or time served. Subsequently, with the approval of the Pike County Chief Probation Officer, the President Judge, and the Prison Board, certain Pike County offenders were released on early release or on bail modification with appropriate safeguard conditions, with an emphasis on those who committed low-level offenses considered to be least likely to recidivate and some individuals with pre-existing health conditions that the Center for

Disease Control (CDC) deemed as high risk for contracting COVID-19 and suffering serious health consequences.

The measures previously described and implemented have resulted in a local county inmate population reduction of approximately 43 as of April 2. This ongoing situation is being monitored and reevaluated daily.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the federal government have jurisdiction over the detainee population, and are actively working to reduce the ICE detainee population, with a reduction of 32 detainees as of April 2.

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