

Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office

May 6, 2026 - Regular Meeting



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

Item 1: Roll Call



Item 2: General Public Comment

General Public Comment – *This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on a topic within the jurisdiction of the Commission but that is not on the agenda. Public comments on matters on the agenda shall be heard at the time the matter is called.*

The Commission may not discuss or take action on items not on the agenda.



Item 3: Motion to Approve Agenda



Item 4: Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

...
April 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting



Item 5: Discussion

...
**Commissioner Ride Along and
Jail Tour Report Outs**



Item 6: Presentation



Physical Mail at the Jail





SAN MATEO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Incarcerated Persons Mail

Connection in Corrections

Presented by
Capt. William Fogarty

OUR MISSION

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting lives and property while providing the highest level of professional policing and correctional services. We are committed to promoting public trust through fair and impartial policing, and we will treat all individuals with dignity, compassion, and respect.

OUR THREE PILLARS

**PUBLIC TRUST
AND
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

**COMMITMENT
TO JUSTICE**



Safety Strategy

- The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office found that narcotics were coming into the facility through physical mail. Excessive paper items also present a fire hazard and the Sheriff's Office does not have room for storage onsite
- Ensuring the safety and security of our correctional facilities is of the utmost importance
- Prevention strategies include: Updated body scanning machines, narcotics detection K-9, routine facility searches and Narcan available throughout the facilities

Inmate, 2 others charged after death of Calif. federal prison worker who opened fentanyl-laced mail

A U.S. Penitentiary prisoner plotted with two people to send him drugs that he could sell at the prison, prosecutors said; the shipment was disguised as "legal mail" from a law office

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Gretchen Spiker, Director of Communications, pio@smcgov.org

October 1, 2025

San Mateo County Sheriff's Deputies Arrest Suspect Who Attempted to Sneak Drugs into Correctional Facility

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – San Mateo County Sheriff's Deputies on Tuesday arrested a suspect who attempted to bring drugs into the Maple Street Correctional Center.

On Sept. 30, 2025, at around 8 p.m., 27-year-old Brian E. Siordia of San Jose, entered the Maple Street Correctional Center in Redwood City and attempted to visit an incarcerated person.

LAS VEGAS (KLAS) – A man is accused of smuggling drugs to Nevada and California prison inmates by sending fentanyl-laced envelopes disguised as legal mail in a scheme that spanned at least seven different facilities, according to a Las Vegas Metro police report obtained by the 8 News Now Investigators.



National Trends Mail

- Approximately 78% of Incarcerated Persons in the United States no longer receive physical mail due to safety hazards.
- California Sheriff's Offices using digital mail:
 - Alameda County Sheriff's Office
 - Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office
 - Sacramento County Sheriff's Office
 - San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office
 - Nevada County Sheriff's Office

Most U.S. Prisoners Now Barred from Directly Receiving Physical Mail

Loaded on FEB. 1, 2026 by [Chuck Sharman](#) published in [Prison Legal News February, 2026](#), page 1

Filed under: [Mail Regulations](#), [Due Process](#), [Legal Mail](#), [Censorship](#), [Warrantless Searches](#), [Electronic Surveillance](#). Location: [United States of America](#).

by [Chuck Sharman](#)

Share:



In just over seven years, changes in prison mail policies proliferating across the country have severely restricted mail privileges at lockups holding the majority of America's nearly 1.2 million prisoners. According to research conducted by PLN in January 2026, at least 78% of these prisoners can no longer directly receive physical mail. Instead, it is scanned into a digital file for electronic delivery, or they get a photocopy. Often, the original is then destroyed.

Alameda County Sheriff's Office's Post



Alameda County Sheriff's Office

January 13 · 🌐

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce a new mail delivery process for Santa Rita jail and our incarcerated individuals. Postal mail can sometimes be used to introduce contraband and illicit drugs into correctional facilities, creating health and safety concerns for everyone. We have had several fentanyl exposure incidents linked to mailed substances and have saved multiple lives. This new process is designed to improve safety while still ensuring that incarcerated individuals can stay connected with their loved ones through timely correspondence. We recognize how important these connections are for the individuals in our custody and their families.

Starting February 23, 2026, all non-privileged mail must be sent to Pigeonly Corrections' mail processing center. All privileged (legal) mail and publications, books, magazines or newspapers that are mailed directly from a publisher or distributor to a named incarcerated individual are not handled through Pigeonly Corrections and will continue to be sent directly to Santa Rita Jail. Attorneys and privileged mail senders must authenticate through Pigeonly Corrections. Any non-privileged mailed received at our facility after March 25, 2026 (30 days after the February 23, 2026 start date), will be returned to sender. All non-privileged mail must include the incarcerated individual's name and PFN number.

Please see the attached Pigeonly Corrections flyer for more information on our new mail delivery process.

Delivery and Availability

- April 26, 2021, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office adopts new process:
 - Mail is sent to outside vendor
 - Scanned
 - Uploaded
 - Viewable on tablets anytime
- Scanned information is available to incarcerated persons upon release
- <https://www.smcsheriff.com/inmate-mail-money>



SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

NEW JAIL MAIL PROCEDURE

Incident Date and Time: Effective April 26, 2021

Locations: Maguire Correctional Facility and Maple Street Correctional Center

As we continue to prioritize the safety and security of those in our correctional facilities, we are making some changes to the way people receive mail.

Effective April 26th, 2021, anyone sending personal mail to inmates at the Maguire Correctional Facility or Maple Street Correctional Center must send all written correspondence including postcards, letters, cards, etc. to:

Smart Communications-San Mateo County Jail
Attention To: (insert INMATE NAME-ID NUMBER)
P.O. Box 9126 Seminole, FL 33775-9126

The inmate's name and ID number must be clearly PRINTED on the outside of the envelope or postcard, to ensure the mail is posted to the correct account. Mail not containing the inmate ID number and name will be "returned to sender".

All postal mail for inmates will be scanned into the system and made available for the individual to view on the inmate kiosk or tablets on their housing unit. Please be advised that when you mail an item using this new secure system, the original document will be destroyed 30 days after it has been scanned. Please do not send any important documents such as original photographs, marriage/birth certificates, or social security cards, since you will not be getting them back.

After people are released from custody, they can login to the public website at: <https://www.smartinmate.com> and enter their inmate number and password to download their photos, messages, and postal mail for FREE.

Family and friends are encouraged to communicate with their loved ones and sending mail is a way to maintain regular contact. We appreciate you working with us on this new process to ensure the safety of everyone at our correctional facilities.

STAYING CONNECTED: Communication Options for Incarcerated Persons and Their Loved Ones

- Video Visitation
 - The tablets provide the option for incarcerated persons to visit virtually with their loved ones within their housing unit in the correctional facility.
 - Each incarcerated person receives two free visits per week
- Electronic Messaging
 - Similar to texting
 - Available on the tablet
- Telephone Services
 - Phone calls
- In-Person Visitation
 - At both facilities

What is allowed

Direct Shipments

- Amazon
- Publishers

Holiday Cards

- Christmas Holiday
- Independence Day

Legal Mail

- Scanned
- Checked



Q & A





THANK YOU!

Item 7: Discussion and Possible Motion

Meeting Frequency - to have the ICAC meetings monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly



Item 8: Commissioner and Liaison Announcements



All public comments should be sent to:

ICACFeedback@smcgov.org



Item 9: Adjournment

Next Commission Meeting:

Special Meeting: Retreat June 6, 2026

9:00am – 3:00 pm

