

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CA DESCANO PROVIDES LATEST UPDATE ON COVID-19-RESPONSE

Update on COVID-19-response's impact on Fairfax County's criminal justice system.

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano released the following update on the recent impact of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

- **73** = individuals recommended for early release from a sentence or release pretrial after reexamination by the CA's Office of previous proceedings (does not include individuals released pretrial as part of updated CA policies).
- **736** = Fairfax County Jail population on **March 1** ahead of COVID-19-response.
- **520** = Fairfax County Jail population on **April 14** post response (roughly a **30% reduction**).

"These updated numbers demonstrate that offices and officials across our local criminal justice system are taking the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and working together. This response is a good start, but much more needs to be done. I hope we will all continue to work together and find new ways to seek justice and safety for every member of our community. I thank our partners across the courthouse and beyond for their work and dedication through these difficult and delicate times," said Descano.

To date, 73 individuals have either been recommended for early release or pretrial release as part of a reexamination of previous proceedings by CA Descano. Each case was reviewed, and these individuals have been deemed to not be a danger to our community. In addition, the CA's office has updated and reinforced its approaches to pretrial detention motions resulting in arrested individuals being largely deferred away from incarceration as they await trial. These results are only made possible by a totality of efforts by partners across our criminal justice system.

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office remains open for business throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and defense attorneys are encouraged to reach out for more information regarding these processes.

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