

MONTEREY COUNTY



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The County of Monterey Board of Supervisors has been made aware of a report that prescription drugs, intended for the healthcare needs of inmates in the Monterey County Jail, may have been illegally passed from a private company employee working in the jail to an employee of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department working at the jail.

The Board has been informed that the matter is under investigation, and that the Sheriff's Office took immediate action upon learning of the situation. If the allegations prove true, the Board of Supervisors is calling upon the Sheriff to take swift and decisive action within his legal authority and to work quickly to ensure the appropriate actions, including disciplinary consequences, are pursued.

It is important for the public to know that the Sheriff (a Constitutional Officer) has the ultimate responsibility and ability to enforce all laws and policies within his department as established by the Constitution of the State of California. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors has no authority to discipline Sheriff's Department personnel.

The County's Board of Supervisors has zero tolerance for such unprofessional behavior and potentially illegal activity by any employee of the County, including those within the Sheriff's Department.

The Board also commends the hundreds of employees within the department who continue to do their important work despite the stress and pressure of recent news events. We are grateful for their continued public service.

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