

**CASS COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY RESOLUTION REGARDING INMATE PRIORITIZATION AND JAIL
CAPACITY
RESOLUTION #2024-09**

Whereas, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) has announced it will implement a Curtailment Order effective November 12, 2024, focusing first on the most serious criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Jail is set to add 192 beds by Spring 2025, thereby increasing its capacity to accommodate the needs of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Commission does not support the recent decision by the North Dakota DOCR which will have immediate and significant consequences for law enforcement agencies in Cass County, potentially impacting public safety; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota must enhance the capacity of its prison system and reconsider its prioritization strategy, particularly for counties with populations exceeding 100,000; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Cass County Commission, the North Dakota Legislature, and the Governor's office to collaborate effectively to address the pressing issues surrounding prison capacity, and to formulate actionable steps that respond to the decisions made by the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Commission formally calls for a united effort among local, state, and federal authorities to ensure that the public safety needs of our community are prioritized. This includes:

1. **Collaborative Discussions:** Engaging in ongoing dialogue among the Cass County Commission, the North Dakota Legislature, and the Governor's office to assess current prison policies and their impacts on public safety.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Identifying and securing necessary resources to enhance local law enforcement capabilities and support community safety initiatives.
3. **Policy Reevaluation:** Advocating for the reevaluation of inmate prioritization strategies to better serve the needs of larger counties while ensuring effective management of serious offenders.
4. **Long-term Solutions:** Exploring long-term solutions to expand prison capacity and improve rehabilitation programs, ultimately contributing to a safer environment for all residents of Cass County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, local government entities, and the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to ensure awareness and action on this critical public safety issue.

ADOPTED THIS 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**Chad M. Peterson, Chairman
Cass County Commission**

**Brandy Madrigga
Cass County Finance Director**