

April 3, 2020

Statement of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

Today's ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) recognizes that the Commonwealth is facing an unprecedented public health crisis.

The decision by the SJC embraces our call for individualized case reviews by the courts, while rejecting the concept of mass release. It also recognizes that we have implemented numerous protocols to prevent, mitigate and address COVID-19 for those who live and work within our facilities and found no constitutional violations.

In the coming days, we will work with our district attorneys, members of the defense bar and other criminal justice partners to facilitate the Court's order. We will do so with a singular focus of protecting all in our care and custody, as well as the communities we serve.