



## OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

### PRESS RELEASE



April 7, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **STATE ATTORNEY DAVE ARONBERG ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY STEPS TO REDUCE ADMISSIONS INTO COUNTY JAIL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In an effort to balance public health and public safety during this COVID-19 pandemic, and to further reduce the chances of a coronavirus outbreak in our local jail, State Attorney Dave Aronberg today announced the following temporary measures during this state of emergency: (1) All bonds for non-violent, non-forcible (i.e., non-burglary) third-degree felonies will be reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,000, prior to First Appearance court; (2) prosecutors will work with the defense bar to identify non-violent inmates near the end of their sentences who do not pose a risk to the community; and (3) if we are unable to agree with defense counsel on a bond reduction or release from custody, we will expedite any bond hearing to take place within 24 hours.

The temporary modification to the bond schedule has been codified in Chief Judge Krista Marx's Administrative Order No. 12.510-04/2020.8 (see attached).

"Public safety is our office's top priority," said State Attorney Aronberg, "and these steps are part of our ongoing effort to protect the community while responding to the public health challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus." State

Attorney Aronberg noted that “our dedicated prosecutors and professional staff will continue to be in court 365 days a year, and are proud to serve the people of Palm Beach County during this time of crisis and always.”

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