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**DONNY YOUNGBLOOD**  
Sheriff

April 16, 2020  
**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Approved by JAK**  
**Press Release 20-15**

**Sheriff Donny Youngblood**  
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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ZIMMER AND SHERIFF YOUNGBLOOD ANNOUNCE  
IMPLEMENTATION STATEWIDE ZERO-BAIL MANDATE**

On April 6, the California Judicial Council adopted a series of Emergency Rules of Court, including Emergency Rule #4, which creates a mandatory, statewide bail schedule that reduces bail to zero dollars for many criminal offenses. The revised bail schedule took effect on the evening of April 13, 2020. The Kern County District Attorney and Sheriff have worked closely to ensure that the requirements of the judicial orders are followed, while also employing every means possible to ensure that the revised bail schedule does not permit serious or violent offenders opportunities at zero-bail release.

The order from the Judicial Council has several exceptions to zero-bail, including all serious and violent offenses and looting offenses, but there are nonetheless several crimes that would qualify for zero bail that are concerning, including child abuse, elder abuse, and the violation of public health orders. Additional crimes qualifying for zero-bail include resisting arrest, reckless evasion of a peace officer while driving a vehicle, and possession of stolen property offenses.

Commenting on the requirement to implement the zero-bail policy, Sheriff Youngblood stated: "This order forces us to implement a statewide bail schedule that doesn't take into account a suspect's criminal history, resistance to arrest or danger to the community, and creates a 'catch and release' system for many felony offenses. The order was unnecessary, as Sheriffs across the state have already implemented procedures to address the threat of Covid-19 while securing public safety."

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented as well, stating:

“Under this new mandate, the presumptive bail on many crimes is set to zero dollars. We are empowering officers to seek increased bail on particularly dangerous offenders by bringing their concerns to a judge, who can still require a higher bail, even on offenses that fall under this mandate. By working with our partners in law enforcement, we will continue to do everything in our authority to limit dangerous and predatory criminals from being released back onto our streets.”

A review of in-custody offenders conducted by both the District Attorney and Sheriff’s Office has identified 39 offenders to date who were required to be released on the zero-bail schedule, and have been released with promises to appear in court for their next scheduled date. Whether new arrestees are released on zero-bail will depend on the crimes for which they are arrested, and whether a judge asserts the authority to order a higher bail.