



**For Immediate Release Media-
Office of the Sheriff,
County of Santa Clara
55 West Younger Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110**

**Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara
191 N.1st
San Jose, CA 95113**



SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH

DETAILS:

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Superior Court, is proud to announce the capability of video arraignments beginning, March 30, 2020. Test efforts began last week in a pilot program with our South County and Palo Alto courts. Video arraignments are available to inmates with felony and misdemeanor cases.

In effort to limit the spread of the coronavirus, these video arraignments will allow for social distancing and limit direct contact for any persons within the courtroom and jail facility. Inmates will no longer need to be transported by bus with other inmates to court, which is another layer of protection against exposure. Additionally, video arraignments have shown to be more efficient and help speed up case proceedings.

The Sheriff's Office has been proactively working on reducing the jail population and reducing exposure within the jail facilities. On Monday, four inmates were released from custody due to the success of this program.

Our Office would like to thank the Santa Clara County Superior Court for their partnership and leadership in response to the COVID-19. We believe this program will not end here, but become a useful advancement in the arraignment process.

**Prepared By: Deputy Jessica Gabaldon
Approved By: Undersheriff Rick Sung**

**Date / Time Prepared: 4/1/2020 @1230
Date / Time Approved: 4/1/2020 @1245**