Buffin et al V. City and County of San Francisco et al

Doc. 397

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Sheriff Paul Miyamoto and Class Plaintiffs have requested that this Court issue an order regarding the Final Judgment and Injunction, ECF #372, insofar as it may bear on Emergency Rule 4 of the California Rules of Court. Emergency Rule 4 was adopted by the Judicial Council of California on April 6, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It requires each superior court, by 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2020, to apply a new statewide "Emergency Bail Schedule," which sets bail at \$0 for all misdemeanors and felonies other than those enumerated in subdivisions (c)(1)-(13) of the rule. Subdivision (d) clarifies that courts retain the ability to deny bail pursuant to article I, section 12 or 28(f)(3) of the California Constitution. Subdivision (g) provides that Emergency Rule 4 will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed by the Judicial Council.

The Final Judgment and Injunction does not prevent the Sheriff from enforcing the statewide Emergency Bail Schedule under Emergency Rule 4 insofar as it establishes an entitlement to release on \$0 bail (including as qualified by the superior court's authority to deny release on bail under the constitutional authority referenced in subdivision (d) of Emergency Rule 4). Such enforcement of the Emergency Bail Schedule is consistent with the Final Judgment and Injunction because the injunction enjoins the Sheriff from enforcing the San Francisco Superior Court's Bail Schedule "or any form or derivative thereof that requires or has as its effect that the existence and duration of pre-arraignment detention is determined by an arrestee's ability to pay." Dkt. 372 at 2 (emphasis added). Under the Emergency Bail Schedule, where bail is set at \$0 or is denied altogether, the existence and duration of detention is not determined by an arrestee's ability to pay.

Emergency Rule 4 also provides that each superior court's bail schedule continues to apply to the offenses enumerated in subdivisions (c)(1)-(13) of the rule. Because the Sheriff's enforcement of the San Francisco Superior Court's bail schedule has been enjoined and the procedures in the Final Judgment and Injunction have taken its place, the Sheriff is required to continue to apply those procedures to eligible arrestees under the Final Judgment and Injunction who are not released on \$0 bail pursuant to the statewide Emergency Bail Schedule.

HON. YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE