



**Katherine Douglas** *Public Comment, Public Safety*

---

**From:** jzachm@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 10:58 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter to the Board for 4/15/26 meeting  
**Attachments:** Letter to the BOS.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good morning,

Please see the attached letter for the Board of Supervisors for the BOS Budget meeting on 4/15/26.

Thank you,

Zach Morphy

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I have worked as a First Responder for over twenty years. I have been employed in multiple counties in different capacities, both Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Law Enforcement.

I am currently assigned to the Co-Response Team as a Deputy with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. I have worked in both north and south county on the team for over two years in this position. I cannot adequately put into words what it means to me to be a part of this team. We have the unique ability to help a variety of people in crisis situations. It is both difficult and self-rewarding when you are able to connect and make a difference in their life and the lives of their loved ones.

The Co-Response model is probably the best model for responding to people in crisis. Often people in crisis do not think clearly and make decisions that they would not normally make. They can be unpredictable and violent. That is why it is so important that this program is not impacted by the county's budget cuts. The citizens of this county will suffer.

Dr. Lee, as our lead, is an integral part of the success of this program. She not only supervises the program but provides her knowledge as a clinical Psychologist. We, the deputies, do not always have a clinician as a partner and have to often rely on the Access Line to have Mobile respond to the scene, which delays care.

Dr. Lee is always available to consult on a case whether it has to do with a Behavioral Threat case or a difficult evaluation for a Welfares Institutions Code (WIC) 5150. This is important when determining the best level of care for the subject.

I would ask you to consider the value and importance of Dr. Lee's position and her guidance and education of the Co-Response program. I have seen a lot of programs though out the years not work properly when it comes to Mental Health. The Co-Response program is a vital piece to the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of this county.

Thank you for your time,

Zach Morphy