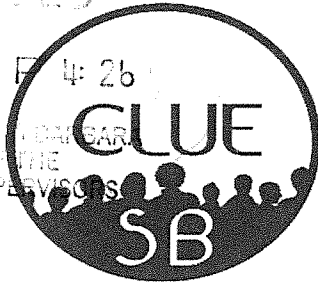




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2023 FEB 21 PM 4:26
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF SANTA BARBARA

2023 FEB 21 PM 4:59
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

February 20, 2023

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

CLUE Santa Barbara and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara appreciate the opportunity to work with you and County Public Safety leaders to improve our criminal justice system. We share common goals of eliminating the root causes of harm to people unjustly impacted by this system, protecting public safety, and insuring effective and efficient use of County funds.

Today we are filing with you more than 350 signatures on a Petition we have circulated within the community. The Petition calls on you to safely reduce the number of people in jail, increase needed community services, continue and expand co-response teams, provide fair and early representation for all, and create equal and fair access to evidence. Since the origin of this Petition, several important issues regarding our criminal justice system have come to light. For this reason, we think it is important to present the signatures now along with three key requests.

Direct the South County Jail Remodel/Rebuild Team to plan for a reduced total jail population of 550 or fewer.

You have now received Consultant Judge Sherrill Ellsworth's updates regarding Michael Wilson's expert report on Jail Population Projections. Wilson projected a future total average jail population of around 800 persons and provided five options that would reduce that population by about 250 people. The County is already implementing several of these, with the current average jail population decreased to around 750 persons. Research suggests a pending grant to the Public Defender for an Early Representation pilot program would lead to further substantial jail reductions by providing holistic intervention quickly after arrest rather than the current brief interaction just a few minutes before arraignment.

In addition, a number of other initiatives will provide enhanced treatment facilities and programs in the community further reducing the number of jail beds needed. Expanded County Co-Response teams will redirect people with mental health challenges to community placements rather than booking them by default into jail. The County's Master Plan for Calle Real includes expansion of the psychiatric health facility and additional outpatient mental health facilities. Behavioral Wellness is planning to develop an increased number of locked beds at the crisis stabilization center. Good Samaritan is restructuring its sobering centers in both North and South County to provide enhanced treatment for "familiar faces," people who otherwise end up in jail by default for drug or alcohol intoxication. The number of supportive housing units available for persons recently discharged from jail is increasing: DignityNOW is adding 300 new beds, and a new Santa Barbara Sanctuary Center that includes reentry beds will break ground soon. It is our understanding that Judge Ellsworth will update you in April on current efforts and future goals to reduce the jail population to house only those who need to be there.

With this progress, it is reasonable to project that the County will need no more than 550 total jail beds. Already, 376 newly certified beds exist in the North Branch Jail. We request that you direct the South County Jail Remodel/Rebuild Team to plan for a reduced total of 200 or fewer South County Jail replacement beds to meet projected County wide demand.

Direct the South County Jail Remodel/Rebuild Team to compare design options for that facility with expansion of the North Branch Jail.

To cost-effectively and efficiently pursue design options to replace jail beds, the County must decide where those beds are best located. We call on you to direct the County's CEO (along with General Services and contracted architects) to compare time and costs (including staffing and operating costs) for two options: remodel/reconstruction of the South Branch Jail vs. adding units at the North Branch Jail in Santa Maria.

We have heard from an increasing number of Public Safety Department leaders and community members who prefer locating the replacement beds at the North Branch site, where a high proportion of residents are directly supervised by custody deputies personally interacting and monitoring residents rather than viewing them remotely on screens.

Direct Staff to pursue preparation of a Live Data System which tracks the availability of community beds for persons in need of mental health and/or addiction treatment.

Public Safety leaders in Santa Barbara County agree that public safety is best served if numerous people who are currently incarcerated instead receive community based

mental health or addiction treatment. Currently there is no transparent live data system available to public safety personnel to track the daily availability of beds and services. An interactive data base could be updated daily and list both public and private facilities, bed capacity, necessary restrictions, and available beds. Such a live data system would be extremely valuable, not only prior to booking, but especially in the approximately 48-hour period between booking and arraignment.

Around 30 people are booked into the jail daily. A data tracking system would allow law enforcement officers, the intake assessment team at each jail, and other public safety personnel to locate placements other than jail for appropriate individuals. In addition, data tracking could help determine what mental health and addiction facilities and services need to be prioritized in each year's budget process.

Conclusion. Important steps forward for healing our County's criminal justice system would be to direct staff to reduce replacement beds in the South County Remodel /Redesign, compare benefits and costs of that remodel with adding beds in the NBJ, and create a transparent, live data tracking system. Let's work together to meet the urgent moral obligation to eliminate unnecessary human suffering in our jails while providing safer communities.

Sincerely,

Laurence J. Severance

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CLUE-CJR Workgroup Co-Chair

Gail Osherenko

Gail Osherenko
LWVSB CJR Task Force Chair

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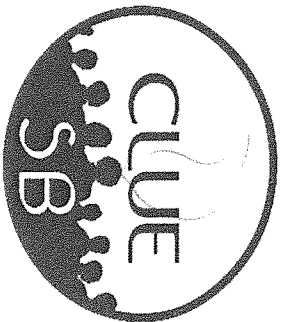
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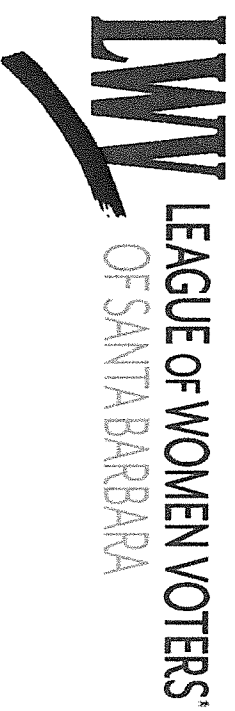
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District Attorney John Savrnoch
Probation Chief Tanja Heitman
Public Defender Tracy Macuga
Behavioral Wellness Director Toni Navarro
Judge (Ret.) Sherrill Ellsworth



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara



PETITION TO SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO TRANSFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We can improve our Criminal Justice system in Santa Barbara County by reducing the number of residents in our two county jails (Santa Maria and Santa Barbara). Why?

Our jails incarcerate people who do not pose a threat to the community and who are simply awaiting trial or disposition of their case. (Roughly 80% of jail residents have not been sentenced.) This does not make us safer. Instead, it traumatizes those unnecessarily left in jail, destabilizes families, causes job losses, and stigmatizes people who by law are presumed innocent.

The county is currently under a Court mandate to eliminate inhumane conditions in the old south county jail. Each jail bed costs \$81,761 per year to operate. Reducing the size of the jail and its population by 200 daily could save \$16 million/year to spend on community-based alternatives and much needed housing.

Over 30% of those in our jails are struggling with mental health challenges. Many can be better served in the community than in our jails. In September, a 35-year-old woman died in the Santa Maria jail after waiting over 6 months for a bed in a State Mental Hospital. Those with addictions are also better off being treated rather than jailed.

To Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

We call on you to fund each of the following to improve criminal justice:

- 1. Safely reduce the number of people in jail.** Implement the June, 2022, County Jail Population Expert's report. Reduce our total long-term jail population by 200 by removing barriers to electronic monitoring, reducing jail time for warrants, and speeding transfers to state prison.
- 2. Increase needed community services – Help, not handcuffs.** Expand and fund community-based treatment programs and mental health beds. Stop housing people in jail with primary health needs that do not require a jail cell. Repurpose existing facilities as needed.
- 3. Continue and expand Co-response teams (mental health worker + law officer or firefighter).** These teams respond to calls in which mental health crises rather than criminal conduct are likely present. Co-response teams have proven to significantly reduce arrests resulting from 911 calls.
- 4. Provide Fair and Early Representation for all.** Fund the Public Defender's request to provide a team (lawyer, social worker & investigator) who can meet with clients days (not minutes) before their first court appearance. This will streamline justice in our Courts. Research shows even a day or two of prep time can substantially reduce incarceration.
- 5. Provide equal and fair access to evidence.** Make funding decisions that enable the Public Defender to receive all the evidence (discovery) that the Sheriff provides to the District Attorney. Other counties have this policy. Our current policy disadvantages those who are accused but must wait to learn the basis of the charge(s) against them.

Please add your name to the Petition below for

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

to Transform Criminal Justice

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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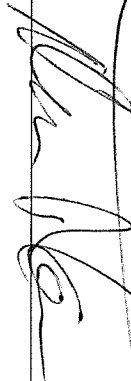
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to Transform Criminal Justice

PETITION TO: SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PRINT NAME

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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to Transform Criminal Justice

PETITION TO: SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PRINT NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PETITION TO: SB COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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NIKI COTTON	niki@cottonclub.us	93013
Vicki Allen	vickiallen@aol.com	93103

To Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

We call on you to fund each of the following to improve criminal justice:

1. **Safely reduce the number of people in jail.** Implement the June, 2022, County Jail Population Expert's report. Reduce our total long-term jail population by 200 by removing barriers to electronic monitoring, reducing jail time for warrants, and speeding transfers to state prison.
2. **Increase needed community services – Help, not handcuffs.** Expand and fund community-based treatment programs and mental health beds. Stop housing people in jail with primary health needs that do not require a jail cell. Repurpose existing facilities as needed.
3. **Continue and expand Co-response teams (mental health worker + law officer or firefighter).** These teams respond to calls in which mental health issues rather than criminal conduct are likely present. They have proven to significantly reduce arrests resulting from 911 calls.
4. **Provide Fair and Early Representation for all.** Fund the Public Defender's request to provide a team (lawyer, social worker, investigator) who can meet with clients days (not minutes) before their first court appearance. This will streamline justice in our Courts. Research shows even a day or two of prep time can substantially reduce incarceration.
5. **Provide equal and fair access to evidence.** Make funding decisions that enable the Public Defender to receive all the evidence (discovery) that the Sheriff provides to the District Attorney. Other counties have this policy. Our current policy disadvantages those who are accused but must wait to learn the basis of the charge(s) against them.

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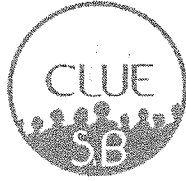
Linda Honikman	Linda.Honikman@gmail.com	93111
GENE MICHAELS	GENE@GENEMICHAELS.COM	93140

CLUE-SB Website

Petition Response Oct '22-Feb '23

Name / Email	Date Signed
Elizabeth A. Boyd	October 27, 2022
Linda Ekstrom	October 31, 2022
Rev. Jeannette Love	October 31, 2022
Rev. Suzanne Dunn	October 31, 2022
Christine Milne	November 2, 2022
DENISE M LEICHTER	November 2, 2022
Irene Cooke	November 2, 2022
Lizzie Rodriguez	November 2, 2022
Lynn H Kienzel	November 2, 2022
Rev. Suzanne Dunn	November 2, 2022
Gail Gillies	November 3, 2022
jane fehrenbacher	November 3, 2022
Sondra Aggeler	November 3, 2022
Robin Rickershauser	November 4, 2022
Susan Shields	November 6, 2022
Laura Pina	November 8, 2022
Adrian Galvan	November 10, 2022
Charlene Macharia	November 11, 2022
Dawn Petersen	November 15, 2022
Allie Cabiles	November 16, 2022
Brandon Aguirre	November 16, 2022
Cesar Vasquez	November 16, 2022
Cheryl Rogers	November 16, 2022
Colin Jones	November 16, 2022
Demarie Diel	November 16, 2022
Denise Delgado	November 16, 2022

Jade Espinoza	<i>November 16, 2022</i>
Karen	<i>November 16, 2022</i>
Mickayla Pinon	<i>November 16, 2022</i>
David Pellow	<i>November 17, 2022</i>
Gilbert Robledo	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
James Carlton Wright	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Jamie LeBlanc	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Joy Robledo	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Kathryn Henry	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Michael Nishimura	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Nicolette (Nikki) Ramage	<i>November 18, 2022</i>
Kate Overton	<i>November 19, 2022</i>
Lee Savage	<i>November 19, 2022</i>
Roxana Anson	<i>November 19, 2022</i>
Sarah Kass	<i>November 19, 2022</i>
Robin Schievink	<i>November 20, 2022</i>
Mary Watkins	<i>November 21, 2022</i>
Laura Selken	<i>November 26, 2022</i>
Mildred Imojean Cupp	<i>November 27, 2022</i>
Bonnie Lassen	<i>December 1, 2022</i>
Marilynn Bolt Brewer	<i>December 3, 2022</i>
Hannah Webster	<i>December 7, 2022</i>
Anne Bauman	<i>January 9, 2023</i>
ELIZABETH MASON	<i>February 17, 2023</i>
JAMES BYRON ROBERTSON	<i>February 17, 2023</i>



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

PETITION TO SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO TRANSFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We can improve our Criminal Justice system in Santa Barbara County by reducing the number of residents in our two county jails (Santa Maria and Santa Barbara). Why?

Our jails incarcerate people who do not pose a threat to the community and who are simply awaiting trial or disposition of their case. (Roughly 80% of jail residents have not been sentenced.) This does not make us safer. Instead, it traumatizes those unnecessarily left in jail, destabilizes families, causes job losses, and stigmatizes people who by law are presumed innocent.

The county is currently under a Court mandate to eliminate inhumane conditions in the old south county jail. Each jail bed costs \$81,761 per year to operate. Reducing the size of the jail and its population by 200 daily could save \$16 million/year to spend on community-based alternatives and much needed housing.

Over 30% of those in our jails are struggling with mental health challenges. Many can be better served in the community than in our jails. In September, a 35-year-old woman died in the Santa Maria jail after waiting over 6 months for a bed in a State Mental Hospital. Those with addictions are also better off being treated rather than jailed.

To Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

We call on you to fund each of the following to improve criminal justice:

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Please add your name to the petition below for
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
To Transform Criminal Justice

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