

**From:** [Connie Alexander-Boaitey](#)  
**To:** [sbcob](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 4/1/25 Agenda Item D4, Update on Renovations at the Main Jail and Potential Expansion  
**Date:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:28:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors..pdf](#)

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March 28, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu, Ste 406  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

**Re: 4/1/25 Agenda Item D4, Update on Renovations at the Main Jail and Potential Expansion of the Northern Branch Jail.**

On behalf of the Santa Barbara NAACP Santa Barbara, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed jail expansion in Santa Maria. Expanding the incarceration infrastructure is a misguided approach to addressing public safety challenges. Instead, we urge our community leaders to invest in proactive and effective alternatives that uplift communities, reduce crime, and create long-term positive outcomes — mainly through increased funding for youth programs and prevention initiatives.

Incarceration disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx members of our community. The current jail situation in Santa Barbara County has impacted the families of our community.

We advocate that you pause this decision for further study. Spending over **100 million dollars** requires more input and review of this complex situation. We need a six-month review/task force to create a more comprehensive plan.

Our concerns are as follows:

1.

The Sheriff **should not be managing** the mental health crisis that impacts the jails and those currently in the jails. We need resources managed by mental health professionals.

2.

**The current situation with bail has created this crisis.** The fact that 90% of those who cannot make bail are living below the poverty line is not being

addressed and again disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx community members. The way bail is being set is unlawful and immoral.

3.

We do not have a way to address non-violent crime. **You need community-based organizations to create real alternatives and services for substance use and mental health needs.** We need step-down beds, not jail beds.

4.

**Jails are being used to manage our homeless issue** - again, we need real solutions for this crisis. We are in a cycle of moving people back and forth and not meeting the needs of these community members. 89% of those arrested have been arrested before.

We respectfully request that you pause a decision on spending upward of 240 to 300 million of monies that you will have to borrow and instead create a Task Force to examine a broader range of options than just building more jail beds. Cost-effective community-based or hybrid solutions likely exist that can satisfy Murray requirements and better serve public safety and public health.

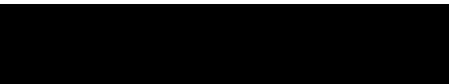
Finally, as leaders, we ask you to work toward a genuinely moral and humane solution to this crisis. We need you to move beyond your personal experience and, with courage and empathy, create a true way forward.

**“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**

Respectfully,

**Connie Alexander**

Connie Alexander  
President, Santa Barbara NAACP  
130 S Patterson #6634  
Santa Barbara, CA 93160



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Connie Alexander  
President, Santa Barbara NAACP Unit 1070-B  
[naacpsantabarbara.org](http://naacpsantabarbara.org)



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