

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Public Safety

From: Susan Horne <susanhorne@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 4:57 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Departmental Budgets/Public Safety



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.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The evidence shows the Jail is not working as it has been a revolving door. The holistic advocacy of the Public Defenders works, the Freedom to Choose is working . Please make the funding go there. Sheriff should reduce barriers to volunteers doing this work in the Jail, not make barriers worse. –

Sincerely ,
Susan Horne
Health Educator

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: John E. Douglas <jed805@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:26 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Improve racial justice and prioritize humane treatment for justice-involved people in our County.

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.

Dear County Supervisor,

I write to express my strong support to improve racial justice and prioritize humane treatment for justice-involved people in our County. I respectfully but firmly call on you to reallocate our criminal justice budget to advance transformational changes:

Permanently reduce Sheriff's Department funding to support a long term average jail population of approximately 550.

Reduce general funding for our Sheriff's Department by up to \$26.7 million and 165 FTEs to bring our Sheriff Department budget in line with comparable counties.

Reduce Sheriff's Department funding for traditional policing that doesn't reduce recidivism. Reallocate funds to community-based diversion and alternatives to jail, including more funds for the Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs. Reallocate funds to support transition planning for jail residents returning to our community.

Increase funding for the Public Defender Department to expand holistic advocacy and culturally competent staff to improve advocacy across the racial/ethnic spectrum.

Reallocate funds to County CEO to expand and centralize data collection and analytics. Require Departments to provide evidence-based data for programs to reduce recidivism.

Offer a grant to the Sheriff's Department to expand jail internet and volunteer access - - including the award winning Freedom to Choose program that reduces recidivism.

Rethink plans for \$28M to refurbish the South County Jail. Reduce footprint to about 200 jail beds. Repurpose funds to build transitional housing to help stabilize eligible jail residents' re-entry into our community. Build a separate assessment center to screen and divert those who are appropriate for community-based alternatives.

Fund seed money to study a possible Civilian Oversight Commission to help assure Sheriff Department transparency and accountability, and deter police misconduct.

Transformational change requires courage. I will watch for you to vote for big change now. The commissioned KPMG studies and we, the people, will support you in this.

Sincerely,
John E. Douglas

Date: April 10, 2021

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Elina Salminen <salminen.elina.m@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 7:50 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda Item A-28

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I hope you are well in these challenging times! I'm writing to give comment on next year's budget. I am a Santa Barbara city resident, a UCSB staff member, and an immigrant. As I live downtown, I daily see how unjustly wealth and resources are distributed in our community, and how a lack of mental health resources create human suffering and, occasionally, unsafe interactions as I go about my day. Research has shown over and over again that increased policing is not the solution and, indeed, often makes things worse. I was also personally horrified to realize how impossible it is to find a shelter spot or resources: In an attempt to help a homeless community member, I called up every shelter. Most didn't pick up, and one said they had not had any available beds for a year.

As such, I urge you to consider the following for next year's budget:

- Reduce Sheriff's Office funding by a *minimum* of \$26.7million and 165 FTE's this year in order to bring their office's budget in line with or below comparable counties.
- Instead, funnel the money to some or all of the following, all of which are the most effective ways to improve safety and human dignity in our community:
 - Healing Justice Santa Barbara's partnership with the Healing Center at UCSB's Hosford Clinic
 - Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs
 - Affordable housing initiatives and shelters
 - Success Stories Program
 - Freedom to Choose
 - Other well established, highly effective grass-roots organizations such as El Centro, Freedom 4 Youth, CAUSE, Ethnic Studies Now!

Thank you for creating a safer, healthier community for all of us.

Yours,
Elina Salminen

○

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Madeline Dippel <madelinedippel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 8:42 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for 4/12/21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Dear Supervisor Board of Supervisors,

As a resident of Santa Barbara County for the past seven years, I care deeply about my community and how the dollars that community members, like myself, put into this county, are spent. Money allocated by the Board of Supervisors should be used exclusively for the betterment of community; in ways that improve the health and safety of *all* our community members rather than over-funding institutions which have been proven to harm large sections of our community with their current practices.

Over-funding the prison system, for example, does nothing to create a safer community because incarceration does not address the root problems behind most "criminal" activity. Studies have shown that trauma and poverty are the two largest influences on "criminal" behavior and incarceration is an experience that is accompanied by socio-economic marginalization and only serves to further isolate those individuals from our community further, making it harder for us to help them to become productive members of our community. Rather than investing in programs and organizations which help people who have been traumatized by the prison system, \$255million (68.3%) of the County's current public safety budget is invested into the supervision (Probation), prosecution (District Attorney), and policing and incarceration (Sheriff) of community members, all of which create additional trauma and reinforce cycles of poverty, thereby decreasing public safety.

In addition to the fact that incarceration is not an effective method for addressing "criminal activity", incarceration is also responsible for increasing racial inequities that exist in our community. SB County disproportionately incarcerates Black and Brown community members, who are already socio-economically marginalized through interconnected racist systems in our county related to housing, education, employment, healthcare, etc.

So, in order to better help all members of our community, regardless of race, mental health or income status, I urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to make the following changes this for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

1. Reduce Sheriff's Office funding by a *minimum* of \$26.7million and 165 FTE's this year in order to support a consistent decline of average daily jail population and bring their office's budget in line with or below comparable counties.

Instead, invest this \$26.7million in:

1. Community-based organizations and initiatives led by folks who have similar identities and life experiences to those who are most impacted by the criminal legal system in order to utilize alternatives to incarceration; true community-based diversion programs that are not affiliated with law enforcement or criminal legal institutions, and more practical and effective transitional services for individuals in custody. Examples of appropriate community-based allocations include funding for:

- Healing Justice Santa Barbara's partnership with the Healing Center at UCSB's Hosford Clinic which provides Black community members with free culturally competent and trauma informed professional mental health services.
 - Note: Changes to Sheriff practices such as being in plain clothes while on duty, as demonstrated by SBPD, are far from adequate when it comes to increasing mental health support for community members that are marginalized.
- Local organizations such as Healing Justice Santa Barbara, El Centro, Freedom 4 Youth, CAUSE, Ethnic Studies Now!, and many others who have been doing this work for many years while severely underfunded. These organizations provide services in the fields of mental health, education, employment, leadership, housing, clothing, food access, violence prevention, immigration, environmental protection, self-esteem and efficacy, arts & culture, etc...
- Success Stories Program which utilizes a dialogic approach to addressing the implications of patriarchy and toxic masculinity, as they repeatedly manifest in the objectification of womxn, the perceived need to show physical dominance or violence over others in order to be "more of a man", and the prioritization of money over healthy relationships. Local nonprofit Freedom 4 Youth has trained facilitators of this program.
- Freedom to Choose which supports individuals in the development of skills related to communication and relationships, fosters emotional intelligence, and dives into the root causes of impulsive, anger-driven, trauma-reactionary behaviors.

2. Affordable housing initiatives in order to accelerate the currently tenuous and sometimes impossible process of finding housing, which can take several years or force local residents to relocate due to cost of living. The lack of affordable and accessible housing for low-income residents disproportionately impacts Black and Brown community members, which increases the likelihood of involvement in the criminal legal system.

I would also like to support the implementation of the demands made by CLUE SB as stated below:

1. Increase funding for the Public Defender's Office to expand holistic advocacy and culturally competent staff to improve advocacy across the racial/ethnic spectrum.

2. Fund seed money to study a possible Civilian Oversight Commission to help assure transparency and accountability from the Sheriff's Office, alter the policing practices and procedures that reinforce trauma, and deter police misconduct.

- Possible results of this include the immediate stop to the Sheriff's cooperation with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), deputy trainings on language justice best practices, and regularly required cultural competency and anti-racism trainings.

3. Reallocate more funds for the Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs.

As I mentioned before, it's important that our community's money be spent towards what will create an inclusive and safe environment for all those who live in Santa Barbara County. So, I urge you to approve this change in budget as a show of respect for the values and needs of our fellow community members.

Thank you.

Best, Madeline Dippel
Concerned Community Member

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Logan Cimino <logan_cimino@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 10:34 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for Board of Supervisors

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Hello County of Board Supervisors,

My name is Logan Cimino and I am a second year student at UCSB. I want to leave a public comment regarding my thoughts on the 2021-2022 fiscal budget. In an effort to value community safety and the interests of all of Santa Barbara County's residents, I truly believe that cutting the sheriff funding by *at least* \$26.7 million and reinvesting this funding into affordable housing initiatives and mental health programs is fully necessary. As an intern for the Santa Barbara County Housing Trust fund, I have been able to see with my own eyes how difficult it is to develop and promote affordable housing in this region. Given the amount of incidents I have also seen and heard related to the police in the county, I believe that reducing police funding and increasing community oversight over the police is not entirely necessary for the sake of the safety of the community. I therefore believe that, as a County, we can begin to center conversations around what policies and programs will truly help keep our residents safe, whether it be from the dangers of the natural environment to the consequences that arise from unaffordable housing costs. Please take the time to truly consider how your budgetary decisions will affect our community's most marginalized residents, particularly its BIPOC, its Chumash residents, and its low-income and/or shelter less residents. Please stand on the right side of history and share your support for budget changes that could positively change so many lives, rather than just supporting policies that uphold the status quo. Our community's safety and well-being depends on it.

Thank you so much for considering my comment and I hope you all have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,
Logan Cimino
Pronouns: He/him/his

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Patricia Fancher <fancher.patricia@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:15 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob
Subject: Departmental Budgets/Public Safety: Cut Sheriff's Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Dear SBC Board of Supervisors,

I am a long time member of the Santa Barbara community living in Gregg Hart's district. I'm an educator. I am a concerned community member who wants everyone in the community to be safe.

I am writing to demand that the SBC BOS cut \$26.7million from the sheriff's budget. There is ample evidence that the sheriff's department disproportionately imprisons and charges black and brown men. These racist practices are well documented throughout the country. Santa Barbara is no different. In fact, the Santa Barbara sheriff is one of the only sheriffs in the state of California to actively work with ICE. They worked with ICE throughout 2019 and 2020, which you were updated on in a meeting in January.

Just last week you passed a resolution that racism is a public health crisis. The SB sheriff is a part of the problem. I insist that you act upon your previous commitments and divest from the sheriff while investing in public health, mental health services, and affordable housing.

The sheriff is also a public servant who should be accountable to civilian oversight. With that in mind, you need to allocate seed money to create a Civilian Oversight Commission to improve accountability and transparency, deter police misconduct and reduce costly lawsuits.

Thank you.
Trish Fancher

--
Patricia Fancher, PhD
Continuing Lecturer, Writing Program
University of California Santa Barbara
<http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/people/patricia-fancher>

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Merushka Bisetty <merushka@drbisetty.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:26 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: BOS Budget Hearing Public Comment for 4/12

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.

Hello,

Please find my comments below. I am requesting that this be **read into the record** for the 4/12 and perhaps 4/14 Budget Workshop. The below comment meets the 250 word limit.

My name is Merushka Bisetty & I am a psychologist with expertise in clinical & forensic psychology. I am also an Adjunct Professor of psychopathology & criminal-legal issues. I've worked in community-based & governmental agencies, most recently at BWELL Justice Alliance where I conducted IST placement recommendations & provided treatment at the PHF, CRT's, shelters, clinics & homes. I've provided psychotherapy & case management services that directly linked clients to vital resources (monetary benefits, food, clothing, jobs, & housing). I helped clients & families navigate through the MH & CJ systems. This whole-person approach to care is creative, effective, & necessary. I am currently partnering with Jeff Gaddess, Ph.D., & law, policy & health experts on implementing an inclusive community-led model (Integrated Services Facility) that provides individualized & intensive one-on-one linkage to mental health (MH), medical, & substance use disorder (SUD) care. It links to attorneys, social, vocational & educational services & opportunities for civic engagement. In addition to increasing funding to recruit & retain compassionate & competent BWELL & BSU co-response staff, we need to invest in community-led care. Research demonstrates that providing intensive, wraparound & non-punitive, culturally-sensitive care in the community mitigates risk of re-incarceration, psychiatric hospitalization, & homelessness. We believe that preventative & proactive measures focused on the needs of people in crisis, along with addressing the real concerns of community members & local businesses, is a far more successful approach than reactive measures. We are asking for support & are seeking funding for the above-mentioned model.

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Warmly,
Merushka Bisetty, Psy.D

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Pam Gates <pamegates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:47 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Pam Gates
Subject: Public Safety Budget

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.

Hello Chair Nelson and Supervisors Hart, Williams, Hartman and Lavagnino – I am writing you today to ask that you take this opportunity to look at the County budget through a racial equity lens. Last week, you took an important step by passing a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, echoed later in the week by the CDC. At that meeting, I gave public comment asking that while gathering information is good, it needs to be followed with action. Here is your chance.

Within the resolution, you stated that “systemic racism causes persistent racial discrimination in mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing.” I ask that you keep all of these categories in mind as you make decisions.

Institutional racism exists in all County departments, as you stated in the Resolution, but particularly in the board category of Public Safety. It is fact-based that there is a disproportionate number of people of color involved in the criminal justice system. It’s time to reallocate funding away from traditional policing and a criminal justice system that unfairly impacts these communities. Currently the Sheriff’s Office receives 60% of the entire criminal justice budget, far higher than other comparable counties in California, while the Public Defender’s Office received only about 5% of all funding.

The Public Defender’s Office offers client-serving and cost-saving holistic policies and procedures that would truly benefit people of color by addressing all of the above mentioned categories. As you have heard this morning, this holistic approach results in fewer people being jailed, fewer families disrupted, and lower rates of recidivism. More stable communities equal increased public safety and the Public Defender’s Office can offer workable solutions only if funding is increased.

At the last Supervisors’ meeting, when I called for action, several Supervisors responded with a number of on-going steps the Board was taking. I appreciated learning of these actions. But with budget reallocations, you are afforded the only way to make substantial and sustainable changes to end the systemic racism that currently exists. End racism – create equity.

Thanks you for considering my comments.

Pam Gates
805-268-4400

“Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing. Read that again.”

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Ian Baucke <ianbaucke@gwmail.gwu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 5:20 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: merushka@drbisetty.com; Christian Alonso
Subject: SBYD Public Comment for 4/12 Supervisors Meeting

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.

Hello,

I would like to submit the following written public comment to be read into the record at tomorrow's budget meeting on diversion and mental health services:

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Ian Baucke and I am writing on behalf of Santa Barbara Young Democrats to express our strong support for an increase in funding and staffing resources for the county's Co-Response program and other mental health services.

This is a critical opportunity to make a significant investment in the mental health and safety of your constituents so it is imperative that we take this moment to double down on the essential services provided by Santa Barbara's mental health professionals. Diverting people from the dehumanizing and counterproductive criminal process is what just, equitable, and fiscally sound policy looks like. Failing to safeguard these services from underfunding and understaffing will have a direct negative impact on county staff, Santa Barbara families, and those who need help most.

Budgets are reflections of not only our priorities but also our values. Please take this opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to keeping all of your constituents safe, healthy, and free. It is essential that our county government embrace forward-thinking and effective policies like diversion as we seek to dismantle systemic inequity and injustice in local law enforcement.

The Board of Supervisors must take immediate action on its expressed support for mental healthcare by making a substantial investment in resources for co-response, diversion, acute care, and increased community-led and integrative whole-person care. Thank you for your time and your public service.

Sincerely,

Ian Baucke
Santa Barbara Young Democrats

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 7:18 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Miyasato, Mona; Brown, Bill
Subject: COLAB Public Comment re: DON'T CUT THE Sheriff's budget!!!

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.

Public Comment
Special Issue: Jail Population, Diversion, and Collaborative Justice
Budget hearing 4/12/21

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to you today to rebut the letter from CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), The Fund for Santa Barbara, and their allies at CAUSE that seeks to reduce the budget of the sheriff's budget by some \$28 million in order to divert these monies to various alternative treatment, sentencing and diversion practices and techniques.

It is a well-known fact that the sheriff budget is actually in need of enhancement, not cuts. Specifically, we don't have enough deputies on patrol throughout the county and the jail is certainly not overstaffed. Furthermore, it appears to be lost on CLUE that the county serves, processes and houses arrestees from all jurisdictions within the county and therefore any decision to cut the budget can and should only be made in consultation with city jurisdictions.

Furthermore, in light of AB109, Props 47 and 57, it is ridiculous to assume that our current legal system is too hard on criminals. The opposite is true. Our communities are not safe from career criminals, including gang members that are continuing to wage deadly warfare on our city streets.

Perhaps the most egregious oversight of CLUE's petition to cut the budget of the sheriff's dept lies in the fact that the original purpose of the sheriff's department is to respond to crimes by way of investigations, arrests and incarceration. The dept is not a social service agency. It is not a mental health agency. It does not offer rehabilitation services. Although all these services and functions are being thrust upon them.

Nonetheless, the county (read that taxpayers) is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on departments that do offer these other services to the mentally ill, homeless, people of color, the poor etc.. If CLUE wants more money and services allocated to the concept of social justice, then we urge the board to take the money from the probation, social services, alcohol, drug and mental health, and public health departments who employ more than double the number of employees in the sheriff's department.

CLUE contends that the sheriff's department budget is larger than that of other comparable counties. The report references no studies or data to support this claim. It is important to note that our Sheriff's budget is "inflated" if you will by virtue of the fact that the department contracts with Carpinteria, Buellton, Solvang, Goleta and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

CLUE asserts that the Public Defender's budget should be on par with that of the District Attorney's office. However, the truth of the matter is that the DA is responsible for prosecuting *all* criminal cases in the county, whereas, the PD is only responsible for defending indigents, while many other defendants are represented by their own attorneys not the PD. It is an apples and oranges comparison.

CLUE would have us believe that the current status of our criminal justice departments lock people up without regard to issues pertaining to "holistic treatment regimens" and the like. The truth is altogether different.

Do remember that the Board of Sups, not the sheriff, rejected the proposed STAR complex that Sheriff Brown sought to build. The supervisors voted to relinquish a state award that would have used \$40 million to build what Brown had called the Sheriff's Treatment and Re-entry Complex, or STAR. The complex would have been separate from the main North County jail that is moving forward, and would have provided mental-health and treatment programs for inmates.

Moreover, since 2010 Brown has served as a Commissioner on the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the State of California, and he leads Santa Barbara County's version of "Stepping Up," a National Initiative to Reduce the Number of Mentally Ill People in Jails. Sheriff Brown received the Santa Barbara County Rescue Mission's Léni Fé Bland Award, the Santa Barbara County Community Action Commission's Community Champion Award, the California Forensic Mental Health Association's Words to Deeds Paradigm Award, and their Christine M. West award for significant contributions to the field of forensic mental health, and he was selected as the California Peace Officers' Association's 2016 Sherman Block Law Enforcement Professional of the Year Award.

Finally, the clergy and lay people that lead CLUE should take a cue from successful religious reformers of the past. These people did not rely on the government to make things right in their communities and in the age they lived in. No, they raised the money and created the programs themselves to make a difference in the lives of the people they wanted to help. There is nothing stopping CLUE from ministering to the homeless, the mentally ill, and the poor among us right now.

Andy Caldwell
COLAB

PS These issues are not being ignored:



**Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)
Realignment Planning Workgroup**

Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2021

Zoom

CCP Realignment Planning Workgroup Members in Attendance:

Ethan Bertrand, 2nd District Representative

Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director – Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness

Tracy Macuga, Public Defender – Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office

Ray McDonald, Executive Director – Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board

Terri Nisich for **Bernard Melekian**, Assistant County Executive Officer (ACEO) – County of Santa Barbara County Executive Office

Mag Nicola, Chief Deputy District Attorney – Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office

Angela Braun for **Darrel Parker**, Court Executive Officer – Santa Barbara County Superior Court

Kimberly Shean, Deputy Chief Probation Officer – Santa Barbara County Probation Department

Vincent Wasilewski, Chief Custody Deputy – Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO)

Staff and Other Attendees:

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender's Office

Burns, Shana – Behavioral Wellness

Coulson, William – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

Davis, Melanie – Probation Department

Earls, Maureen – Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)

Grossi, Dana – Probation Department

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Lipman, Rachel – County Executive Office

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Ribeiro, Chris – Behavioral Wellness

Saafir, Emir – Probation Department

Severance, Laurence – CLUE

Sibley, Christina – Probation Department

Soderman, Michael – District Attorney's Office

Villegas, Lea – Public Defender's Office

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Jillian Ellis <jillian.ellis5@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 8:12 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Safety Budget Concerns

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.

Dear County Supervisors,

My name is Jillian Ellis and I have lived in Santa Barbara County for 4 years. I am contacting you today regarding the public safety budget of our county. I'm aware that you recently declared racism a public health crisis in SB County. Given that the Black and Brown communities in our county are disproportionately incarcerated, impoverished, and marginalized, it is time for the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the budget reflects our values. I am speaking up today to advocate for a reduction in the county sheriff department's budget and an increase in investment in community-led programs, social services, and affordable housing. **Prove to us that the resolution you passed to declare racism a public health crisis is more than just words.**

I urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to make the following changes this for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

- 1.
2. **Reduce**
3. **Sheriff's Office funding by a *minimum***
4. **of \$26.7million and 165 FTE's this year in order**
5. **to support a consistent decline of average daily jail population and bring their office's budget in line with or below comparable counties.**
- 6.

Invest the \$26.7million in:

- 2.
3. Community-based
4. organizations and initiatives led by folks who have similar identities and life experiences to those who are most impacted by the criminal legal system in order to utilize alternatives to incarceration, true community-based diversion programs that are not
5. affiliated with law enforcement or criminal legal institutions, and more practical and effective transitional services for individuals in custody. Examples of appropriate community-based allocations include funding for:
- 6.

-
- Healing
- Justice Santa Barbara's partnership with the Healing Center at UCSB's Hosford Clinic which provides Black community members with free culturally competent and trauma informed professional mental health services.
-

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- Note:

- Changes to Sheriff practices such as being in plain clothes while on duty, as demonstrated by SBPD, are far from adequate when it comes to increasing mental health support for community members that are marginalized.

-
- Local organizations such as Healing Justice Santa Barbara, El Centro, Freedom 4 Youth, CAUSE, Ethnic Studies Now!, and many others who have been doing this work for many years while severely underfunded. These organizations provide services in the fields of mental health, education, employment, leadership, housing, clothing, food access, violence prevention, immigration, environmental protection, self-esteem and efficacy, arts & culture, etc...
-
-
- Success
 - Stories Program which utilizes a dialogic approach to addressing the implications of patriarchy and toxic masculinity, as they repeatedly manifest in the objectification of womxn, the perceived need to show physical dominance or violence over others in order to be "more of a man", and the prioritization of money over healthy relationships. Local nonprofit Freedom 4 Youth has trained facilitators of this program.
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- Freedom
 - to Choose which supports individuals in the development of skills related to communication and relationships, fosters emotional intelligence, and dives into the root causes of impulsive, anger-driven, trauma-reactionary behaviors.
-

3.

4. Affordable

5. housing initiatives in order to accelerate the currently tenuous and sometimes impossible process of finding housing, which can take several years or force local residents to relocate due to cost of living. The lack of affordable and accessible housing for

6. low-income residents disproportionately impacts Black and Brown community members, which increases the likelihood of involvement in the criminal legal system.

7.

I would also like to support the implementation of the demands made by CLUE SB as stated below:

4.

5. Increase

6. funding for the Public Defender's Office to expand holistic advocacy and culturally competent staff to improve advocacy across the racial/ethnic spectrum.

7.

5.

6. Fund

7. seed money to study a possible Civilian Oversight Commission to help assure transparency and accountability from the Sheriff's Office, alter the policing practices and procedures that reinforce trauma, and deter police misconduct.

8.

9.

Possible results of this include the immediate stop to the Sheriff's cooperation with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), deputy trainings on language justice best practices, and regularly required cultural competency and anti-racism trainings.

6. Reallocate more funds for the Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs.

Thank you for your time.
Jillian Ellis

--

JILLIAN ELLIS
jillian.ellis5@gmail.com
jillianjellis.com

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Carolyn Chaney <cchaney@sfsu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 8:37 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Sheriff's budget

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.

I hope that you will reduce the sheriff's budget significantly and invest those dollars in programs that benefit the community. Of course we need policing, but even more, we need programs that de-escalate violent interventions, provide mental health intervention, invest in our community and better defend those accused. Let's establish a civilian commission to provide oversight of the Sheriff's Office.

Carolyn Chaney

"Tell me, what do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Mary Oliver

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Gail Johnson <gsjoh50@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:52 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Improve racial justice and prioritize humane treatment for justice-involved people in our County.

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.

Dear County Supervisor,

I write to express my strong support to improve racial justice and prioritize humane treatment for justice-involved people in our County. I respectfully but firmly call on you to reallocate our criminal justice budget to advance transformational changes:

Permanently reduce Sheriff's Department funding to support a long term average jail population of approximately 550.

Reduce general funding for our Sheriff's Department by up to \$26.7 million and 165 FTEs to bring our Sheriff Department budget in line with comparable counties.

Reduce Sheriff's Department funding for traditional policing that doesn't reduce recidivism. Reallocate funds to community-based diversion and alternatives to jail, including more funds for the Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs. Reallocate funds to support transition planning for jail residents returning to our community.

Increase funding for the Public Defender Department to expand holistic advocacy and culturally competent staff to improve advocacy across the racial/ethnic spectrum.

Reallocate funds to County CEO to expand and centralize data collection and analytics. Require Departments to provide evidence-based data for programs to reduce recidivism.

Offer a grant to the Sheriff's Department to expand jail internet and volunteer access - - including the award winning Freedom to Choose program that reduces recidivism.

Rethink plans for \$28M to refurbish the South County Jail. Reduce footprint to about 200 jail beds. Repurpose funds to build transitional housing to help stabilize eligible jail residents' re-entry into our community. Build a separate assessment center to screen and divert those who are appropriate for community-based alternatives.

Fund seed money to study a possible Civilian Oversight Commission to help assure Sheriff Department transparency and accountability, and deter police misconduct.

Transformational change requires courage. I will watch for you to vote for big change now. The commissioned KPMG studies and we, the people, will support you in this.

Sincerely,
Gail Johnson

Date: April 12, 2021

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Chris Cummings <cal_defender@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 8:06 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Improve racial justice and prioritize humane treatment for justice-involved people in our County.

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.

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