

**Ramirez, Angelica**

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**From:** Logan Kozal <logankozal@ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:42 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Racial Equity and the Criminal Justice System



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Dear Board Members,

My name is Logan Kozal, and I am a Santa Barbara resident. I am writing to you following the public hearing on 6/11, where I was not able to make a public comment. I want to amplify many of the concerns brought up in that meeting. First, I reiterate my ardent support for the demands put forth by our local Black Lives Matter Chapter.

Further, I want to implore you. Do not allow the opening of the North County Jail. We have shown during this pandemic that we can and should safely reduce the number of incarcerated individuals in our community. We know that extreme biases in our criminal justice system, police forces, and generations of systemic racism make it far more likely that the health risk and burden of mass incarceration is being borne primarily by communities of color. Even extremely short periods of time spent in jail can have detrimental effects on a person's life and livelihood causing people to lose jobs, not meet family commitments, and potentially be exposed unnecessarily to a deadly disease as the pandemics of racism and COVID-19 currently collide. This vicious spiral of even short periods of detainment in jail exemplifies how locking people up in prisons does not make us safer, it exacerbates some of the very causes of desperation and devastation leading to crime in our communities. If we open this jail the exorbitant cost of operating it will drive it to be filled, which is the last thing our community needs. This is especially concerning when people are jailed for inability to pay bail, or for inability to pay fees, one should not be imprisoned for their inability to pay and therefore we must extend zero dollar bail orders beyond the pandemic and protect people from judges setting bail above schedule. Even in the case of convictions we should be exploring all possible alternatives to incarceration, community service, enrollment in programs designed to actually help and rehabilitate people with substance abuse issues etc. This will be less expensive and far more humane. Do not open the jail. We need to attack issues at their roots with mental health support, affordable housing, and social programs, not costly prisons that actually exacerbate and fuel cycles of violence and crime.

I also urge you that we must expand our police mandates to ban chokeholds and strangleholds, establish a use of force continuum, require deescalation and that officers exhaust all other alternatives before shooting. We must immediately adopt all of the #8cantwait changes to protect life while we focus on how to restructure our police and criminal justice systems.

To that end, I support the demand for an independent civilian review board to oversee police actions. This board must have the ability to investigate the policies, procedures, and training of the police department in addition to the immoral actions of individual officers. AB 1185 gives the county the ability to build a sheriff oversight board therefore there is not justification as to why we have not already assembled one.

Finally, we must decrease the Sheriff's budget and reinvest money in community programs. The Sheriff has exceeded costs with overtime by 9.1 and 8.2 million dollars in consecutive years and STILL has not provided

body cams despite the SB Grand Jury recommendation back in 2017. This shows a clear misalignment of priorities.

We must attack systemic racism at its roots, strive to make our institutions Anti-Racist and invest in our COMMUNITIES not in their policing or incarceration.

Thank you for working to listen and reimagine how we can build a safer more equitable future by restructuring these institutions.

Sincerely,  
Logan Kozal