

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Public Safety

From: Haley Wolfe <haleywolfe97@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Hart, Gregg
Cc: sbcob
Subject: Reducing 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.

Dear Supervisor Hart,

I am an education professional and have lived in Santa Barbara for six years. I have worked at Santa Barbara City College for 3 years in their Disability Services and Programs for Students department where I have worked with Santa Barbara residents of all ages and backgrounds and seen how the criminal justice system has affected their lives. I was a resident of Isla Vista for four years and had many interactions with police, some positive but mostly negative. I have also read extensive research on policing and its effectiveness in communities.

It is widely known that trauma and poverty are the two largest influences on criminal behavior. Incarceration is an additional trauma that breaks apart families, adds monetary stress, and reinforces cycles of poverty and crime in disadvantaged communities. There is also evidence to show that incarceration and traditional policing do not reduce recidivism.

Because of these facts, 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.

Invest the \$26.7million in:

2. 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.

3. 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 have personally experienced the stress of finding affordable housing in Santa Barbara. Tourism in our city relies on restaurant, hotel, and retail workers but there is simply not enough affordable housing for the people working those jobs.

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

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

5. 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.

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

I love Santa Barbara and I believe with these changes we can be a better, safer community for everyone as well as an example to the rest of the country about what public safety can look like with less policing. We owe it to our community, especially our Black, Brown, and Indigenous neighbors to create a city and community where people are truly safe.

Thank you for reading. I will be keeping in touch about this and future issues.

Haley Wolfe

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jeannette Love <jenblove9@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: sbcob; Macuga, Tracy
Subject: SB Board of Supervisors Sheriff's Budget Hearing Demands - April 2021

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 Das Williams, Supervisor Gregg Hart, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Supervisor Bob Nelson and Supervisor Steve Lavagnino,

I am a resident of Santa Barbara County for over 20 years, Pastor serving the Catholic Church of the Beatitudes, and very concerned about the impact of the criminal legal system on our communities of color in Santa Barbara.

Given the following facts:

- 1.
2. Trauma
3. and poverty are the two largest influences on "criminal" behavior
- 4.
- 5.
6. Incarceration
7. is a traumatic experience that is accompanied by socio-economic marginalization
- 8.
- 9.
10. SB
11. 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.
- 12.
- 13.
14. There
15. is conclusive evidence that shows traditional policing methods and incarceration do
16. **not**
17. reduce recidivism
- 18.
- 19.
20. More

21. than \$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
22. cycles of poverty, thereby decreasing public safety
- 23.

I urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to make the following changes 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 to
5. 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.

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- 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.

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- 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...
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-
- 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 women, 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.
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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.

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- 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.

7. Reallocate

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

9.

I support all of the above as an alternative to the possibility of police brutality. They are not prepared to deal with people who have mental health issues, trauma due to lack of affordable housing, food deprivation, lack of health care and so much more due to the isolation of the Covid 19 pandemic and the pandemic of systemic racism. I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of these people who struggle every day to meet the needs of their children with little success. Walk a mile in their moccasins before turning a blind eye to their needs. I trust that your heart and soul will do what is right! The Beatitudes Faith Community will join you in praying and acting on behalf of our communities of color.

Thank you for taking time to discern these important matters. We all need to act now so justice can begin to rain down on our neglected communities of color.

Sincerely and Many Blessings,

Rev. Jeannette Love, RCWP

Rev. Jeannette Love, RCWP
Pastor Serving the Catholic Church of the Beatitudes
Santa Barbara