

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 1

# 5



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**From:** Sean Joyce <sean4695@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 9:57 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Isla Vista safety measures proposed by Supervisor Capps

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,

As a city manager of more than 25 years, I urge you to support Supervisor Capps' recommendation to install desperately needed safety measures that, if installed years ago, would have saved innocent young lives tragically lost at no fault of their own. Implementation of Supervisor Capps' common sense recommendations will save lives at little cost to a county that benefits enormously socially, intellectually and economically from its town and gown relationship with UCSB. I can only hope that we have all been exhausted by the preventable deaths of so many young people as a result of the lack of proper fencing at Isla Vista. I know that I am not alone when I say that I cannot bear to learn of yet another death of a young person who has unwittingly fallen to their death as a result of the lack of installation of safety fencing at a known public safety hazard.

Please support Supervisor Capps in her quest to install requisite fencing to ensure the safety of the residents and guests of Isla Vista. It is long overdue.

In memory of Noah Krom, and too many others.

Sincerely,

Sean Joyce

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** heather Alibrando <halibrando@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:43 AM  
**To:** Katherine Douglas  
**Subject:** Re: Heather Havens . Speech for Nov 7

**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 my name is Heather Havens .

My beautiful son Chasen Alibrando died from a cliff fall a year and a half ago in Isle Vista on April 29 2022. He was an alumni of ucsb visiting for the alumni weekend celebrations . Chasen was very successful and worked in Private banking as a wealth management analyst.

He golfed all weekend and was letting loose with some of his fraternity brothers at a party located on a balcony that is clearly hanging over the cliff with no land underneath . I brought a photo of the balcony to show the extremely dangerous situation . I am not sure of the details of his fall so I have stopped obsessing on anything other than the facts . My son has already been held accountable and paid his price for any bad decisions that night so I want everyone involved also held accountable . In my opinion that would include coastal commission, city and county code enforcement and the landlords of these properties used for housing ucsb students .

These properties are in horrendous conditions to be housing anyone let alone College students that are hosting parties on the cliff. This has happened way too many times now to be considered a freak accident .

I want to see a lot of change and I am here today to advocate for Chasen and all the others who have been injured or lost their lives also . 3 additional young adults have fallen along with my son in just a year and a half . Enough is enough . I support Laura Capps and the 8 point plan and wish someone would have been courageous enough and as proactive as she has been after Chasen died so that the other 3 might have been avoided .

I am hopeful to have a lot of issues corrected from her efforts .

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2023, at 3:13 PM, heather Alibrando <halibrando@yahoo.com> wrote:

I will try

I am

Not very good with computers

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Katherine Douglas <kdoug@countyofsb.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Heather,

Can you please re-submit your public comment as plain text within an email?

Respectfully,

*Katherine Douglas*

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Direct: 805.568.2240

Fax: 805.568.2249

[kdoug@countyofsb.org](mailto:kdoug@countyofsb.org)

<image002.png>

**From:** heather Alibrando <halibrando@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 1:27 PM

**To:** sbcob <sbcob@countyofsb.org>

**Subject:** Heather Havens . Speech for Nov 7

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8 point plan speech on Nov 7

Open my shared note:

**Hello my name is Heather**  
<image001.jpg> **Havens .**

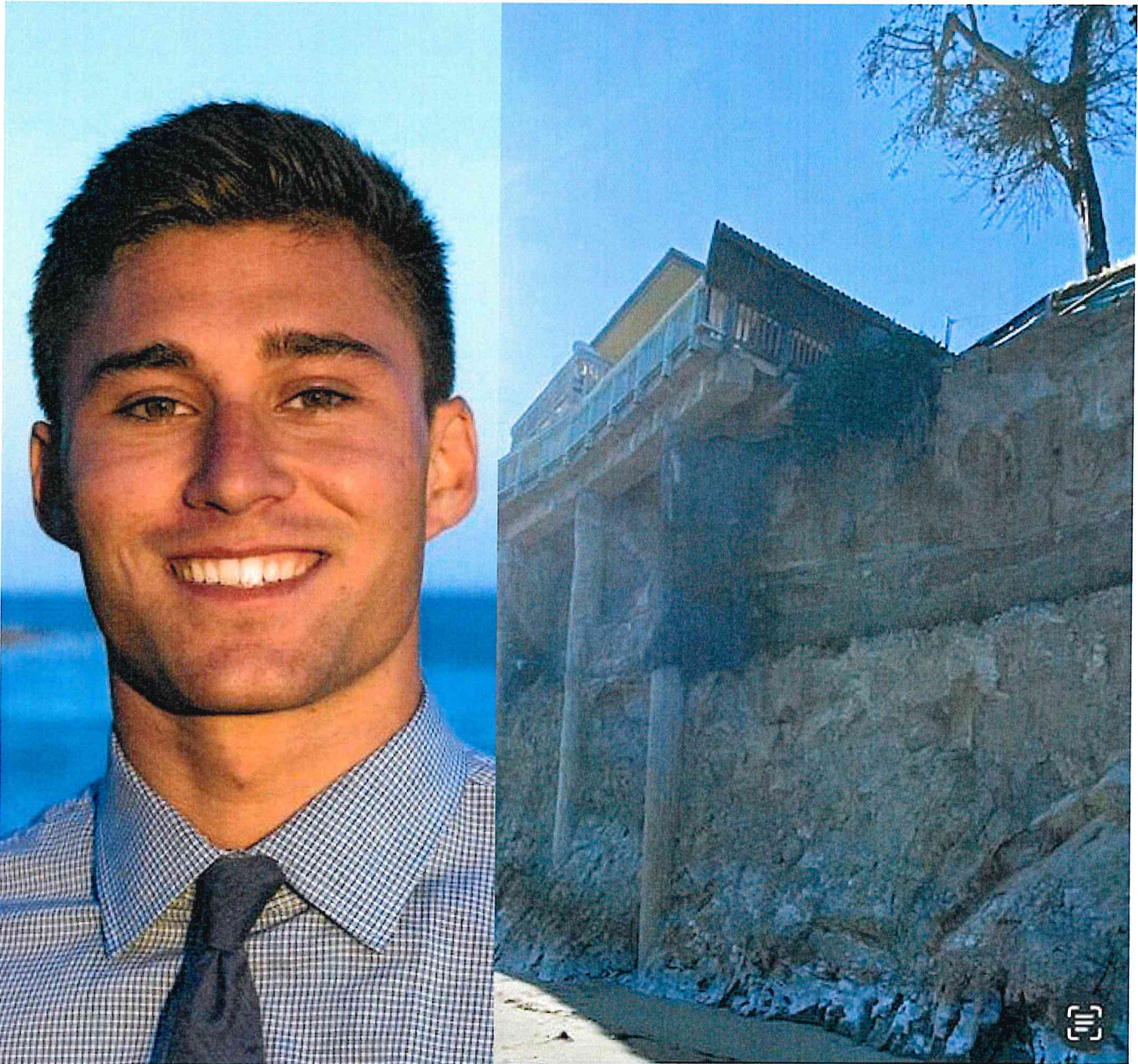
Sent from my iPhone

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** heather Alibrando <halibrando@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 1:45 PM  
**To:** Katherine Douglas  
**Subject:** Re: Heather Havens . Chasen Alibrando

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Sent from my iPhone

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** Beth Krom <bethkrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 11:23 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter for BOS on Item #5  
**Attachments:** SBCBOS letter.docx

**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.**

Attached please find my letter to the Board of Supervisors. I have signed up to participate virtually on Tuesday.

Thank you for sharing my letter with the board.

Beth Krom

To: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
From: Beth Krom  
Date: November 5, 2023

Dear Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Nelson and Lavagnino,

I am writing to urge your full support for the eight-point plan Supervisor Capps has recommended to address the serious safety issues along the bluffs in Isla Vista.

In June of 2009, just one week before he was to graduate from UCSB, our son Noah, then 22, died after falling from the cliffs in Isla Vista. There were at least six cliff fall deaths before Noah died and since his death at least six more. The recent death of Benny Schurmer has torn the scab off my heart once again. You cannot know the profound trauma that comes with knowing that many, if not all of these deaths might have been prevented had measures been taken to address the bluff safety issues in Isla Vista years ago.

I am not just a grieving mother, I am a former mayor and councilmember in another UC host city who understands the challenges of prioritizing matters not all constituents care about. If I am honest, the hardest part of our journey following Noah's death was seeing how quickly the lives of our children were forgotten — as if their lives didn't matter and their deaths were written off as casualties of the party life that has been celebrated in Isla Vista for decades. I have come to know other families who have lost children to the cliffs. Each story a profound tragedy. All any of us ever wanted was for no other family to go through what we had gone through, for action to be taken, for all the stakeholders from public safety and property owners to university administrators, civic leaders and the students themselves to work together to ensure the safety of those living, working and socializing in Isla Vista.

**I am grateful that a comprehensive plan is now being developed. I urge full implementation of all the Isla Vista Bluff Ordinance Amendments to install protective fencing on both county and private property, add lighting, restrooms — not just port-o-potties — signage and other upgrades and measures to improve the environment, address safety hazards and protect life in Isla Vista.**

You are all no doubt familiar with the broken window theory whereby decay and disorder left unaddressed leads to more degraded and dangerous conditions in a community. There are many factors that contribute to the high degree of risks in Isla Vista. Your sustained commitment and investment in bluff safety will surely yield positive benefits now, and in the future, and demonstrate that the lives of those lost mattered enough for you, as county leaders, to do all in your power to prevent more senseless deaths in the future.

As Albert Einstein wisely pointed out, "We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them." I'm praying for your unanimous support and urge the partnership of all stakeholders. Thank you for your leadership. If there is anything I can do to help, just let me know.

Beth Krom  
7 Banyan Tree Lane  
Irvine, CA 92612  
949-466-6114

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Siobhan Markee <smarkee0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 6:44 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fencing Isla Vista

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.

To Those With the Power to Affect Positive Change:

My name is Siobhan Markee. In May of 2014, my 20 year old, smart and beautiful daughter, Sierra Markee-Winkler, fell to her death from the inherently unsafe and unprotected cliffs of Sea Outlook Park. Had there been adequate lighting and fencing, she would not have died that fateful night. The death of an only child is mind-numbing. To discover that this has happened over and over again before my daughter fell was mind boggling. To watch it continue to happen again and again since, due to lack of action by those who could prevent these senseless tragedies, is heartbreaking.

How could the "powers that be" ignore such a blatant safety hazard, given how many people had fallen and died or sustained serious injury previously? What could possibly take precedent over protecting human life? What could be more valuable than the lives of our young people?

I applaud Supervisor Laura Capps' plan to improve safety on the cliffs of Isla Vista. This is your chance to finally do the right thing. Please stand up for those who can't, and do your part to remedy this serious safety hazard in Isla Vista and put human lives first, before profit, before a "good view". This is your chance, your moment, to affect change by adopting common sense remedies to this problem.

I hope this is the last letter I have to write. I pray that Benny Shurmer is the last victim of Isla Vista Cliffs. I pray that I don't have to walk another mother through the horrific realities of processing the loss of their child.

Please, do the right thing here. Prevent the next fall: Adopt Supervisor Laura Capps' plan.

Sincerely,  
Siobhan Markee

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Diane Bucka <dbucka@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 8:44 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Proposed safety measures in Isla Vista

**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 am an alumna of UCSB, and both my husband and son are alumni as well. For DECADES, we have been mortified about the tragic - and avoidable- loss of lives in Isla Vista resulting from lack of sufficient safety measures along the cliffs. For too long there has been hand-writing and finger pointing, all resulting in a grave failure to protect students. We support the long overdue proposed safety measures in Isla Vista.

It is regrettable that it took yet another death over Labor Day weekend to remind everyone that the eroding cliffs persist as an ongoing danger. Thank you to supervisor Laura Capps for her leadership on this issue. It should be unanimous, but we certainly expect that the required four out of the five supervisors to vote in favor of the measure. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,  
Diane (Crane) Bucka



**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** eedm@cox.net  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Support of Supervisor Capps' 8 Point Plan

**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.**

Honorable Supervisors,

I write today in support of Supervisor Capps' 8 Point Plan for Isla Vista Bluff Safety. I am aware of the many tragedies that have occurred over the years along the Isla Vista Bluffs. I have also witnessed the pain and sadness experienced by families who have lost loved ones as a result of an accidental fall from these cliffs. As a career public safety official and retired Chief of Police, I understand the value of collaborative partnerships and comprehensive planning when tackling critical issues related to public safety. Supervisor Capps' 8 Point Plan is the appropriate approach to positively impacting this issue and preventing further tragedies. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David L. Maggard Jr. Ed.D.

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Lusio Filiba <lusio@bearmountainsecurity.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Isla Vista Safety Measures  
**Attachments:** SecuriMesh.png

**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.**

To whom it may concern:

For more than two decades I have worked across the globe to secure areas involving risk to the public as well as providing security solutions to governmental facilities.

We work with clients who require an aesthetically compatible barrier that will not obscure the view, but will ensure the safety of the people, institutions and natural features being protected.

Our SecuriMesh product provides the key benefits of being anti-climb and anti-cut while maintaining clear visibility through the fence line to ensure natural aesthetics and beauty are not negatively impacted (Product Images Attached).

We work with both public sector and private sector clients to achieve the protection required while integrating seamlessly with the natural environment.

I am aware of the unique challenges presented with the bluffs in Isla Vista and the safety of the local population. Having provided security fencing materials throughout the State of California, we believe we are uniquely positioned to provide the right solution to this very challenging issue.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet or speak with you and your county staff about how our products might help you meet your public safety interests.

Kind Regards,

Lusio Filiba

CEO

Cell: 202.549.3431

[Lusio@bearmountainsecurity.com](mailto:Lusio@bearmountainsecurity.com)

[www.bearmountainsecurity.com](http://www.bearmountainsecurity.com)

[Bear Mountain Security](#)





## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Sue Dixon <stelablu@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 3:17 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Laura Capps; williams@countyofsb.org; Joan Hartmann  
**Subject:** 11/7 Agenda Item 23-01041 Supervisor Capps' 8 Point Isla Vista Bluff Safety Plan Public Input

**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 Input for Agenda Item 23-01041:

My name is Sue Dixon. As a resident of Isla Vista, I am writing to comment on the Isla Vista Bluff Safety Plan. I have owned and lived in my property on Del Playa Drive (not on the bluff side) for almost 40 years, and was a student in Isla Vista in the 1970's. I also have a daughter who is currently a student at UCSB who resides elsewhere in Isla Vista. I successfully raised 3 children in Isla Vista and taught them to party responsibly and to be careful about the cliffs.

I have witnessed a lot of changes in Isla Vista during the time I have lived here. One thing that has remained constant in IV in all that time is the stunning view of the Pacific Ocean and the Channel Islands. From my vantage point, I am constantly witnessing people coming to recreate there on Del Playa and enjoy the scenery and the beach. Those of us who may not be so able any more to go down to the beach itself can still enjoy the scenery from the blufftop parks and open spaces.

I, too, am concerned about the safety of the students. I support several of the points put forward in the safety plan, including the installation of motion-activated lighting, and the addition of signage and bathrooms. I think it is important to work with law enforcement and, importantly, landlords to reduce unsafe situations such as large parties on bluff-side properties. The out-of-control use of alcohol and other drugs at parties in Isla Vista should be addressed by whatever means possible, as it leads to all kinds of health and safety hazards. When I was an undergraduate at UCSB, alcohol sales were not even permitted in Isla Vista.

Now I will address items 1 and 6, Fencing and Horticulture. I agree that we need some kind of barrier which will prevent people from getting too close to the edge. I do not believe that a 6' fence is necessarily the best solution to the problem, and I don't believe the best solution is the same for the different types of properties on the bluffs. This should not be a one-size-fits-all solution. I think the parks and open spaces should be treated differently from the properties which house large numbers of students prone to reckless behavior. I also believe the 6800 blocks of Del Playa should be exempted from the 6' fence.

There are horticultural solutions, such as the lemonade berry shrub, which could provide effective barriers in the open spaces and parks. People would not try to walk over the top of a thick hedge, which could be maintained in such a way as to not obstruct the view. Another advantage to this solution is that native plants serve to help stabilize the cliffs and help to slow down the erosion. Fence posts actually serve to destabilize the cliffs and accelerate erosion.

I would never be able to see over a 6' fence. Such a fence would be taking away my right, and that of countless others, to the spectacular ocean view from the blufftop. I am not even convinced that 6' would deter physically fit young people. I have at times had people scale an 8' fence and land in my yard. The 4' fence already in place already seriously mars the view.

Regarding the CEQA Notice of Exemption which is part of this proposal, I do not think this should be exempted. The legislative intent of CEQA Section 21000(b) states that "it is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that at all times is healthful and pleasing to the senses and intellect of man". The proposed fence would not be pleasing to the senses and intellect at all. Section 21001 (b) says that all actions necessary should taken to provide the people of this state with "enjoyment of aesthetic, natural, scenic, and historical environmental qualities..." A 6' fence would not do that at all, and therefore I don't think CEQA should be regarded as irrelevant to this proposal.

Because of the overcrowded living conditions in Isla Vista, the presence of open spaces and parks and expansive views is especially important for the mental health of residents. Isla Vistans have gone to great efforts in the last 50 years to preserve these spaces and views and to make Isla Vista a more livable place. The 6' fence would make Isla Vista look like a prison yard. I would venture to say that there is nowhere else on the California coast where such an obstruction to the view would be tolerated. We Isla Vistans, contrary to popular opinion, are not second class citizens and should not be treated as such. Please find an alternative solution.

Thank you,

Sue Dixon  
6882 Del Playa  
Isla Vista, CA 93117  
(805)570-0928  
stelablu@cox.net

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Steve Von Ruden <svonruden@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 3:23 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Isle Vista 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.**

Beth Krom sent the article and action plan to our email notifying us of yet another tragedy where we lost our son Tyler Von Ruden on 9/25/2005,.

This madness needs action to save any life of our future generation. It's very obvious after seeing the results since our heartbreaking loss and uncountable attempts to do the right thing to make the required change to alter the future we know will be written over and over in the Santa Barbara Press, that the status quo is not the answer.

We support any/all efforts to make this site as beautifully safe as our lost children's faces once were. There are uncounted examples of deterrent fences, appropriate lighting, restrooms, etc. that should be examples of how responsible communities secure a safe living environment for people caring about people have addressed similar situations- we CAN DO this if we want to be responsible.

I apologize if my frustration comes through this note- I simply can not believe we are still losing precious children and thrusting more families into the horror we have been living with since 2005.

In memory of our beloved Tyler and the 12 other tragic losses (I'm sure more) please help put an end to this selfish ideology roadblock to do the right thing.

We hope this message helps, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or ????

Regards,

Steve & Melody Von Ruden