

Brianda Negrete

Public Comment - Public Defender

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**From:** Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Budget Hearings: Expansion Request Recommendation  
**Attachments:** Budget Expansion Request Recommendations 2023-24.docx  
**Categories:** Public Comment

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Please see attached NAMI Santa Barbara County's letter of recommendation regarding the 2023-2024 budget expansion requests.

Thank you,  
Lynne Gibbs



To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: Lynne Gibbs for NAMI Santa Barbara County

Subject: Expansion Request Recommendations

Date: April 19, 2023

NAMI Santa Barbara County strongly supports the Public Defenders expansion requests for supervisory positions. For us, this is a simple calculation. The Public Defenders' Dept. is considerably underfunded as compared to other county departments. Despite limited staffing, according to its report the department repeatedly sets ambitious goals. It has met them, and even exceeded them. It has stretched in scope adding a number of new, valuable programs such as Holistic Defense and Early Representation requiring additional supervision requiring an expanded knowledge base. New programs need additional supervision as they are implemented, and supervisors are already stretched. We think anyone who reviews the department's budget presentation will agree that these additional allocations to the department will be well leveraged for its ongoing good work.

We also strongly support the Community Services Expansion Request for Emergency Shelters and Warming Centers. It is a modest sum. We know the need continues to grow, and we know the shelters and warming centers are chronically underfunded.

Thank you.