

Sheila de la Guerra Public Comment

From: Hannah Quiroz <hannah@futureleadersnow.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:59 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: written public comment

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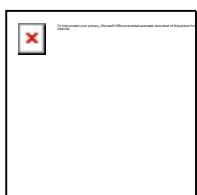
Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Hannah, and I am writing this public comment to urge you all to make young people in our community a priority and invest in their future.

Proposition 64 was passed in 2016 to invest in the people who were negatively impacted by the war on drugs. Since 2018, Santa Barbara County has received over \$55 million from cannabis taxes, yet you've chosen to allocate these funds to enforcement rather than prevention and supporting young people. As a woman whose life trajectory was changed by the impact nonprofits had on me as a teenager, this is extremely unsettling. I am thankful to all the programs that helped me when I was younger, becoming the person I am today, and I want today's youth to have even greater opportunities.

Research shows that communities that prioritize youth programs are significantly more successful at preventing crime than those that invest in enforcement. Research done by the Council on Criminal Justice even found that these benefits are generational, creating safer and healthier communities for the future. As you realign the budget, I urge you all to prioritize young people in our community.

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