

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment-Group 4

#2

From: Lilyan Cuttler <lilyan.cuttler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.



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 County Supervisor,

I write to express my strong support for changes to reduce the jail size and increase community-based alternatives so our jail holds only those who need to be there to protect the public.

1. Delay approval of final design and construction funds for any design contract services until the County obtains and has results from an expert jail population projection analysis. Urge our Supervisors to wait until the jail population analysis is available before voting to commit millions of taxpayer dollars.
2. Assure public input and transparency: establish specific opportunities for all stakeholders, including the public, to consider together options for the best use of the south county jail property.
3. Treat all jail residents humanely. Redesign the jail to allow for direct supervision. Provide opportunities for officers trained as mentors to work directly with residents, rather than remote. Research shows that this improves health and job retention for correction officers as well as helping residents. All units in the campus need access to an outdoor yard and a day room for socialization, reducing costly staff overtime escorting residents from cells to exercise spaces, classrooms, etc. Plans should also include pre-release transition housing with work-related day passes for those who will soon be reentering the community.
4. To help narrow the jail population to just those needed to secure public safety, provide improved jail intake assessment teams. At jail intake, the assessment team consists of the Sheriff's Intake Staff, Probation Risk Assessment, and Public Defender Holistic Advocacy. CLUE Criminal Justice Workgroup's research found the assessment team needs leadership and a coordinated effort rather than a disjointed silo approach. Focusing on Holistic Defense rather than on the criminal act prior to arraignment, will reduce the jail population by only incarcerating those who need to be there.
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I ask you to commit to a more humane structure, replacing cells with more open living spaces and in-person supervision where mentoring by corrections staff can occur.

Sincerely,
Lilyan Cuttler

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Susan Horne <susanhorne@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:35 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Susan Horne

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Lizzie Rodriguez <lrodriguez@rcnsb.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:29 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Lizzie Rodriguez

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Nila K Hastings <nilawill@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:29 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Nila K Hastings

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Alice MacDonald <alicerigg2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:03 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Alice MacDonald

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Kathleen M Sharum <ksharum@me.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 2:03 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Kathleen M Sharum

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Pam Gates <pamegates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 1:17 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Pam Gates

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Anne Heck <nonna724@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 12:25 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Anne Heck

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Alan Strout <pastoralan@fumcsb.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 12:38 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Alan Strout

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Charles Dennis Alger <alohacda@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 12:04 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Charles Dennis Alger

Date: November 8, 2021

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Christine F. Boesch <sparrowhaven@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:46 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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Sincerely,
Christine F. Boesch

Date: November 8, 2021

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Pam Gates <pamegates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Departmental Budgets/Public 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.

Hello Chair Nelson and Supervisors -- I saw on the Agenda that you are considering the steps necessary to comply with January's Stipulated Judgement, the result of a federal lawsuit against the Sheriff and the County. I would ask that you do way more than the "due minimum" that's apparently required by that lawsuit. This is your opportunity to revamp the South County jail, reduce the population, and create a situation that treats those incarcerated in a more humane manner which has been shown to reduce recidivism. Studies show that 70% of those in jail will return and this is unacceptable. I understand that the new North County Jail was designed based on newer innovations, including more open floor plans, improved living conditions, improved working conditions for staff, and community-based alternatives to incarceration. I ask that the Board of Supervisors delay final approval on design and construction funds until such time that the County has received it's comprehensive independent jail projection analysis report. I also ask that going forward, the process is open and transparent with all stakeholders encouraged to give input. Thank you for considering my comments.

Pam Gates

History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, all the better, because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase or destroy.

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Suzanne Riordan <suzanne@familiesact.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment by Families ACT! - Main Jail Rehabilitation
Attachments: Public Comment by Families ACT! BOS November 8, 2021.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.

Please accept our Public Comment on Departmental Agenda Item #2 for November 9th, 2021, attached.

Suzanne Riordan

--

Stop the Revolving Door! Beds Not Cells!

Suzanne Riordan
Executive Director
Families ACT!
www.FamiliesACT.org
805-637-1339



P.O. Box 2152, Santa Barbara, California
805-637-1339 | info@FamiliesACT.org
www.FamiliesACT.org

November 8th, 2021

Departmental Agenda Item #2:
Main Jail Rehabilitation
Project

Honorable County Supervisors,

As Santa Barbara County addresses the question of how to best use space in our Main South County Jail to meet our county's changing needs, Families ACT! supports Option 2 as recommended by the County CEO's Office.

Families ACT! was founded in 2007 to help Santa Barbara County create compassionate and effective mental health and substance use treatment facilities not located in a penal institution. As such, our mission is aligned with the goals of the California IST Solutions Workgroup appointed to make recommendations on how to address the crisis our state and counties are facing in terms of how to restore the competence of a person judged Incompetent to Stand Trial due to the severity of their mental health condition.

The consequence of having funded jail beds at the expense of treatment facilities is highlighted by the crisis we currently face in the backlog of defendants with felony charges who have been judged incompetent to stand trial and are sitting in jail awaiting a treatment bed in a secure state hospital facility.

Our family members appreciate the tireless efforts of Dr. Alice Gleghorn during her tenure as Director of Santa Barbara County's Behavioral Wellness Department and of our current acting Public Defender, Tracy Macuga, to help the Community Corrections Partnership set aside funds towards the creation of a secure Forensic Mental Health Rehabilitation Center.

We hope that at long last, the County will shift its emphasis on funding jail beds and jail operations to funding secure mental health treatment facilities designed to help restore a defendant's competency, as well as step-down facilities as part of a continuum of services that will assist clients in their journey toward health and wellbeing.

Suzanne Riordan
Executive Director
Families ACT!

Beds Not Cells!