

# General Public Comment - Grp 1



Partial transcript (electronically prepared) of City Council regular meeting on April 21, 2026:

Note what the Chief finally stated and the City Attorney Doimas, City Council and City Administrator did not thereafter dispute or question or attempt to change that answer. "We're going to try to intervene so that, that force stops. The excessive force must stop no matter the perpetrator."

**Councilmember Wendy Santamaria:**

".....I don't necessarily anticipate that there will be a huge change in in maybe what we're seeing out in the field but I just wanted to get a sense from you of what will it what can the public expect uh when police officers are are witnessing use of excessive force by federal agents.

**Chief of Police Kelly Gordon:**

Mayor Rouse, Council Member Santamaria, I, I think there's two different kind of perceptions that currently we talk about. Is most of the time, and what we've already seen is those actions have already been taken by the time we get there. So we respond after pepper spray's been deployed or after someone has taken into custody. So we don't have the when we arrive, we don't have the ability to have all the information. It's just like we conduct an investigation. Even when one of our officers is involved in a use of force, we get witness statements. We do all these particular things in conduct a full investigation. So that's very different than if we arrive in the forces happening at the time. So if the forces. Happening at the time, we're going to try to step in and deescalate that situation. That is our goal. So whether or not you know what that looks like after the fact depends on the circumstances, OK. With if we feel like there is excessive force, that's what we would consider something that is prosecutable. There's there's a whole investigation that would have to happen. It should never be the public's or the community's expectation that we're going to suddenly just place handcuffs on the federal agent in that moment there has to be a whole process that goes with it it doesn't mean we won't address it we certainly will address it and if we feel it's appropriate we will take all that information and we will go to the attorney general's office you know if we had an officer involved shooting that involved a federal agent here in the city that's who we would ask to investigate it would be the California DOJ. So that's where we would work in partnership with the other, you know, law enforcement and prosecuting agencies, whether that's the DA's office, whether that's California DOJ, it's very nuanced based on the circumstances that we're faced with. But I think that's. The differences. Most of the time we arrive, everything has already happened

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Susan Shields <shields3033@netscape.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 6:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Cuts to Emergency Services Staffing

**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.**

Attention: Members of Santa Barbara County Supervisors Board

As a senior citizen and taxpayer and a member of the Grey Panthers I was alarmed to learn that the board is considering making 25% cuts to Emergency Services staffing. I need to point out that, as a group, the elderly have more reason than most to require emergency services. Within the last month my partner fell in the house and could not get up and we had to call for help to rescue him. Not long ago I came upon an elderly woman who had collapsed in a parking lot and I stayed with her until the paramedics arrived. Many of us try to stay active but falls happen without warning. And our demographic is growing as modern medicine keeps us alive longer. Therefore I consider it a priority to maintain emergency services at a level that can serve everyone who needs help. Please do not make the proposed cuts.

Susan Shields  
3033 Calle Rosales, SB 93105

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Kate Connell <connell.kateclare@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:28 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Roy Lee  
**Subject:** Keep Emergency staff

**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 keep funding for emergency staff in the budget! As our elected officials, you have a responsibility to ensure adequate services in the event of another emergency. Don't crunch numbers that could lead to someone losing their life or being seriously disabled because an emergency services manager was not available.

Thank you for your hard work prioritizing the needs of our community!

Yours in peace,

Kate Connell

Eastside Santa Barbara

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Amrita Salm <amritaincarp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:40 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Emergency Staffing cuts

**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 Supervisors,

I am writing to all of you to express my concern about cuts to emergency services. Please consider & reconsider other options.

Thank you for your service.

Regards,

Amrita . Salm, Ph.D.

PObox 684

Carpinteria, CA.93014-0684

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Sue Sadler-Pare <Sue-Sea@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 9:33 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** EMERGENCY SERVICES

**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.**

It has come to my attention that you **are considering making 25% cuts to Emergency Services staffing.**

How is that even possible!? This is critical to the health and safety of our residents, and in my particular case, to the elderly.

It is a drop in the county's budget- bucket to fund this critical position and perhaps you should look at your own self approved salaries to cut waste.

This is not the place to use your hatchet!

And speaking of safety...WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET THE MUCH NEEDED FIRE STATION NEAR WINCHESTER CANYON??

Shocked and appalled,

Sue Sadler  
Goleta resident of 44 years