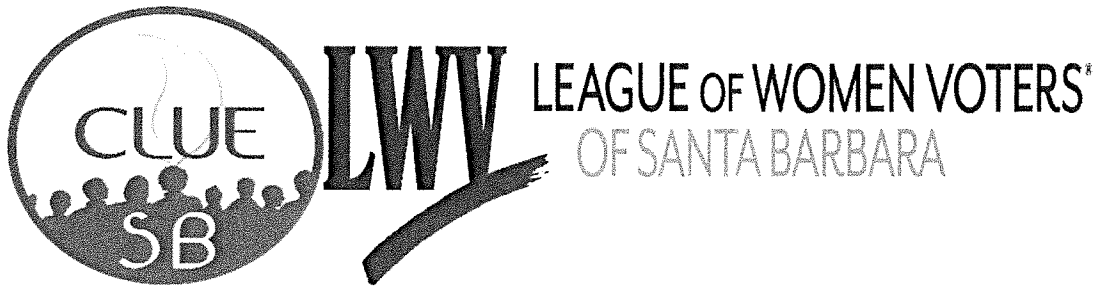


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CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

November 8, 2021

**Subject: Public Support for County CEO and Staff Recommendations**

Dear Chair Nelson and Supervisors,

Thank you for scheduling this public hearing concerning efforts to remodel the South County jail and set key criminal justice goals and priorities. The delay in scheduling these agenda items has given our criminal justice workgroups within CLUE Santa Barbara and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara an opportunity to meet with Sheriff Brown, his key staff Chief Wasilewski and Commander Sullivan, Probation Chief Tanja Heitman, Public Defender Tracy Macuga, District Attorney Joyce Dudley, CEO Mona Miyasato and General Services Director Janette Pell and other key staff.

**Jail Remodel Recommendations:**

Based on our research, and input from members of the general public, **we urge you to adopt your County CEO and staff's recommendations for Option 2 in the Main Jail Rehabilitation Project.**

Our understanding is that Option 2 is the same as Option 1 but adds a broad assessment of longer-term inmate housing and program space at the South County Jail campus. Option 2 requires consideration of results of the jail population study and will include assessment of a direct supervision model for replacement beds at the South County Jail. Importantly, it requires a return to the Board once complete for further direction.

Option 2 will also allow consideration of key innovations in jail design that assure humane conditions such as open floor plans, better access to exercise, and direct supervision by corrections staff. These structural changes have been shown to improve living and working conditions, improve health of corrections staff, reduce jail violence, and--most importantly--reduce recidivism. It will also assure that funds will not be approved to design or rehabilitate areas that will not be needed if the jail population remains the same or shrinks.

**Criminal Justice Reforms:**

We appreciate the ongoing collaborative effort to improve the Criminal Justice system as shown in the presentation and Attachment A. We want to comment specifically on **Intake Assessment**. Our research revealed that the intake assessment teams in north and south county are critical to distinguish between those who don't need to be held in jail and those who do. Our key finding relative to effective intake assessment is that our County needs to strengthen leadership for a more coordinated effort. A holistic perspective prior to arraignment will reduce the jail population by only incarcerating those who need to be there.

Thank you for your ongoing earnest efforts to improve our criminal justice system.

**Sincerely,**

Laurence Severance, Ph.D., J.D.  
Maureen Earls  
Co-Chairs, CLUE SB  
Criminal Justice Workgroup



Pam Flynt Tambo  
Chair, Social Policy Committee  
for Vijaya Jammalamadaka  
League of Women Voters Santa  
Barbara