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June 7, 2021

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

via electronic mail to sbcob@countyofsb.org

Re: Public Safety and Sheriff's Budget Reduction

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) stands with Showing Up for Racial Justice, Healing Justice, and several other organizations and individuals in calling for a reduction of the Sheriff's Budget by \$26.7 million.

Throughout these budget hearings taking place shortly after the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder, we urge you to reconsider the allocation of public safety funds in Santa Barbara County's budget.

Given that:

1. Poverty and trauma are the two largest influences on criminal behavior
2. Incarceration is traumatic for individuals and their family members
3. Santa Barbara County disproportionately incarcerates people of color
4. Traditional policing and incarceration do not reduce recidivism
5. More than 65 percent (\$255 million) of the County's public safety budget is invested in supervision (Probation), prosecution (District Attorney), and policing and incarceration (Sheriff) of community members

SBCAN urges you to **reduce the Sheriff's Office funding by \$26.7 million**. This would put Santa Barbara County more in line with other comparable counties and would be consistent with the declining county jail population. We encourage you to invest this money in community-based organizations that address the root causes of criminal behavior (poverty, trauma, lack of resources) and thus create safer communities without perpetuating cycles of harm.

Thank you for taking this important step towards justice for our community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Hough".

Ken Hough
Executive Director

cc: SBCAN Board of Directors

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