

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 2

From: John Douglas <jed805@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:42 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Elliott, Darcel; Henson, Chris; Litten, Jefferson; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory
Subject: Racial Equity in Law Enforcement – hearing Dec. 1, 2020



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.

November 30, 2020

Santa Barbara County Supervisors

Re: Equity in Law Enforcement – Sheriff’s Dept. Entanglement with ICE

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to demand immediate accountability from Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown on the Sheriff Department’s compliance with AB 2792, the Truth Act (2016) and SB 54, the California Values Act (2018).

I urge you to demand immediately that the Sheriff’s Dept. stop conflating release notifications of every inmate with an ICE hold with transfers to ICE, and to prohibit ICE interviews of inmates in County Jail, practices which violate SB 54.

I urge you to demand transparency from the Sheriff’s Dept. in the number of inmates transferred from county custody to ICE and accurate figures for those transfers in 2018 and 2019. (The Sheriff’s Dept. reported ZERO transfers to ICE for all of 2018 and 2019 in required disclosure to the Calif. Attorney General’s Office, an inherently non-credible figure, particularly in light of the

department's report in their 2019 Truth Act Forum of 98 transfers for 2018.)

The Sheriff's policies and practices of cooperation with ICE are irredeemably harmful to the community by encouraging racial profiling, violating due process, subjecting detainees to detention periods beyond their statutorily-limited pre-arraignment detention periods or sentences, subjecting inmates to double punishment, tearing families and our communities apart, undercutting the purported rehabilitation goals of the criminal justice system, overburdening county law enforcement resources, amplifying community distrust and non-cooperation with all local law enforcement – making our communities less safe, not more safe, and further marginalizing and punishing people of color in a system already significantly discriminatory against them.

Moreover, in the middle of the covid pandemic, which has hit detainees in jails, prisons and immigrant detention facilities so much harder than the general population, NOW is the time to act to rein in the unfair and unlawful practices of the Sheriff's Dept. in cooperating with ICE.

Santa Barbara County has the discretion under California law to cease working with ICE altogether. I urge you to follow the lead of California counties like San Francisco, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, Humboldt, Contra Costa and San Joaquin, and prohibit transfers of county inmates to ICE.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

John E. Douglas
Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Dr. Connie Stomper <cms320@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:55 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Compliance with AB 2792, the Truth Act (2016) and SB 54, the California Values Act (2018).

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Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,
Dr. Connie Stomper

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Linda Honikman <linda.honikman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:24 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comments on Equity Fund use (possibility for affordable housing communities)

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

My name is Linda Honikman from Future Housing Communities, but I am speaking as an individual resident. This is a time when we need to elevate the voices of people of color and I echo what has been shared by Healing Justice Santa Barbara and other organizations led by our black and brown neighbors which includes a different approach for the Sheriff's department and better representation and guidance on all aspects of community governance from residents of color. But selfishly I also want to point out that increasing equity for those residents who have not had it and promoting diversity in our community is good for everyone.

In a recent forum called 'Confronting Racism in Santa Barbara hosted by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, we had a great introduction to our new superintendent of schools for the Santa Barbara District. In response to survey comments about how to combat systemic racism in K-12 education, Hilda Maldonado shared the encouraging feedback she is getting about the new Ethnic Studies classes and plans. She also mentioned the difficulties of recruiting teachers of color because of our high cost of housing. I saw that firsthand a few years ago as the school photography vendor when Harding School spent 3 years looking for a principal that would be a good match for the students. The last candidate, an African American who spoke Spanish seemed to be popular with the school community but gave up after a year of commuting from Los Angeles. And as a small business owner, there were several black and brown employees that we would have loved to hire full time but they could not afford to stay in the area.

So it may be worth using a chunk of the Equity Fund to jump start an effort to provide affordable housing for a younger, diverse workforce. If it is limited to people who have not had a history of home ownership in their families it will provide some equity where there was a deficit before. And It could help to shorten commute times and provide multigenerational and racial ethnic diversity that can benefit our economy and health of the community.

Personally, diversity is worth a lot to me and so far the trend has been going in the other direction for the South County. If part of the effort to get a younger, diverse community includes a way for community residents to be investors and donors then all parts of the community can contribute to making a dent in our housing crisis.

In summary, I hope you will leave enough of the Equity Fund for folks to think big on how to leverage resources to make a significant result. We need to give the people who could use more Equity time to recover from the tough year they have had (and the tough decade which includes recession, fires, mudslides and Covid-19). And we need to look into why people of color and people under 45 have already left Santa Barbara in recent years. The County has a number of folks who can help come up with a housing plan starting with our two excellent housing authorities. And national leaders such as the Sustainable Economies Law Center can provide workshops and consultancy if there is enough interest to pursue.

Thank you!

Linda Honikman

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Kate Connell <connell.kateclare@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 7:33 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: DasWilliams@SantaBarbaraCA.gov; Hart, Gregg; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Elliott, Darcel; Henson, Chris; Litten, Jefferson; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory
Subject: Equity in Law Enforcement – Sheriff’s Dept. Entanglement with ICE

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Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Kate Connell



Kate Connell, director

Pronouns: she/her/hers

www.truthinrecruitment.org

[Facebook.com/TruthinRecruitment](https://www.facebook.com/TruthinRecruitment)

Instagram: [@truthinrecruitment](https://www.instagram.com/truthinrecruitment)

(805)708-8058

Truth in Recruitment is a project of the Santa Barbara Friends (Quaker) Meeting, a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our goal is to educate students, families, and school districts about alternatives to military careers, inform families of their children's privacy rights, and advocate for policies regulating recruiter presence on campuses.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Amy Porter <amy.porter7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 9:55 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Criminal Justice Reform

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.

Good afternoon,

My name is Amy Porter, and I have lived in Santa Barbara for over 13 years. I'm writing to urge you to decrease incarceration for nonviolent penalties. Going to jail affects more than the person who is imprisoned; it punishes the whole family. Children who have parents in jail or prison have an increased risk for psychological, behavioral, and relational problems. 77% of children who have a mother imprisoned end up in kinship care (in the foster care system living with a relative) or foster care (in the foster care system living with a resource parent). I have been a foster parent and have had children placed with me whose parents are in jail for minor drug offenses. The impact on their life is incalculable and could have been mitigated.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this very important issue.

Amy Porter

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Dana Morton <dana.n.morton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 10:21 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for Dec 1 Mtg: Reduce Incarceration in Santa Barbara County

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 Board of Supervisors,

I am a resident and voter of Goleta and have lived here for nine years. I am writing today to urge you to enact concrete solutions to address the racial inequities in policing and incarceration in Santa Barbara County. Over the summer, Public Defender Tracy Macuga testified that 75% of her department's total cases involved Black or brown defendants, showing the magnitude of this issue.

We must keep the jail population low. COVID-19 has forced action on the jail population, and has unintentionally provided an experiment demonstrating the benefits that this can provide. Over the summer, the county jail population was reduced by 37%, and crimes tended to decrease overall, including the most serious violent crimes. Add this to the fact that over half of the people in jail at any time are awaiting trial but cannot afford bail (and thus have not been found guilty!), and it seems obvious that we should keep the jail population low and work to reduce it further.

This will also save money, and this money should be used on services that benefit the community, such as mental health crisis programs and resources for vulnerable community members.

This money should NOT be redirected back to policing, and I urge you to reduce the annual budgets of policing institutions to invest in these community based alternatives to incarceration.

Further, the District Attorney needs to create diversion opportunities to provide people with several chances and reduce the criminalization of communities of color. These types of programs already exist for people accused of misdemeanors and have been successful. DA Dudley has already stated that she would support such a program for defendants accused of felonies, so I urge the Board to ensure that she follows through on this pledge.

Finally, to ensure that these changes do not further entrench systemic racism and inequity, the Board of Supervisors must begin the process of creating a civilian oversight system for the Sheriff's Office, in compliance with Assembly Bill 1185. This system must include adequate representation of the oppressed groups of peoples it is designed to protect.

Thank you,
Dana Morton
Goleta, CA 93117

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Dana Morton, PhD
Ecological Parasitology Lab
University of California, Santa Barbara
Bldg 555, #2014

Office Phone: 893-3998