

Sarah Mayer *Public Comment*

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From: Randy Rowse <rrowse@santabarbaraca.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 2:45 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: jam3768
Subject: Tuesday April 4th BOS meeting
Attachments: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors3.docx

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

3/29/2024

Das Williams
Laura Capps
Joan Hartman
Steve Lavagnino
Bob Nelson

Dear Colleagues,

We are experiencing an overdose death crisis across the country that is becoming the statistical rival of the recent Pandemic, with no indications of improvement. Santa Barbara County is not immune to this issue, as local overdose deaths have increased by more than 50% over the last 3 years. The eventual remedy will involve serious and pervasive programs of prevention, but in the meantime, we must deal with the horrific consequences of the current plague.

Our law enforcement capabilities have been stressed by diminishing resources and hindered by State-wide legislative trends over the last few years. It is imperative that we increase our capacity to provide the level of enforcement needed to help facilitate the path towards treatment and eventual recovery. Please bear this issue in mind as budgetary priorities and distribution of settlement funds are considered.

Project Opioid involves the support of leaders from education, law enforcement, elected officials, and private-sector business. Funding a full-time Project Opioid Coordinator is appropriate in our current situation and would be an asset for coordinating a multi-pronged approach to solving this crisis for our County.

Very Truly Yours,

Randy Rowse
Mayor, City of Santa Barbara



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