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de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Rich Appelbaum <richappelbaum@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:34 AM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Laura Capps; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Jail Options Vote: Tuesday May 16
Attachments: 5.12.23 BOS Letter (1).pdf

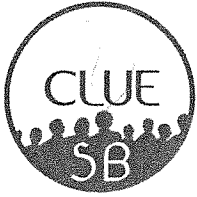
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Dear Supervisors,

Apart from housing (on which I just emailed all of you), as a CLUE Board member I also support Option 1 before you today regarding the county jail. I attached CLUE’s letter, which I know you have already received.

Best,
Rich Appelbaum

Richard P. Appelbaum, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Global & International Studies
Social Science and Media Studies 2103
University of California at Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7065
phone: (805) 886-7820
email: rich@global.ucsb.edu
<http://www.global.ucsb.edu/people/richard-appelbaum>



CLUE Santa Barbara

Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

1500 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 clue@cluesb.org

CLUE SB Board

Board of Directors

Lane Clark, President, CLUE SB
SB Religious Society of Friends
Peace, Earth Care and Social Concerns
805-729-6006 | rlaneclark@gmail.com

Diane Fox, Ph.D. Vice President, CLUE SB
Social Justice Committee
Catholic Church of the Beatitudes
503-235-9626 | dnfox70@gmail.com

Deacon Martha Santrizos, M. Div
Treasurer, CLUE SB
Social Justice Coordinator
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
805-451-3169 | zosmar@aol.com

Wayne Martin Mellinger, Ph.D.
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
Behavioral Wellness Commission
SB County Continuum of Care
Social Venture Partners
805-452-8194 waynemellinger@gmail.com

Laurence Severance
Social Justice/Outreach Committee; Council member
Trinity Lutheran Church of Santa Barbara
206-250-585 | liseverance@msn.com

Gene Michaels
Goleta Community Church
gene@genemichaels.com

Rich Appelbaum
Gray Panthers, B'nai Brith Social Justice
Committee
Congregation B'nai Brith, Goleta
richappelbaum@ucsb.edu

Jeff Shaffer
Santa Barbara Catalyst, Kingdom Causes
Pastor, Communitas International
jeff.shaffer@kingdomcauses.org

Maureen Earls
Co-Chair CLUE Criminal Justice
maureenearls00@gmail.com

Advisory Board

Rev. Julia Hamilton
Lead Minister, Unitarian Society of SB

Rev. Dr. David Moore
Pastor, New Covenant Worship Center of SB
Families Act, Chief's Advisory Board, SBPD

To: Santa Barbara County Supervisors:
Re: SB Renovation and Construction Jail Project
May 12, 2023

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

CLUE-Santa Barbara supports option 1 from the CEO Board report. CLUE's evidence and research shows nonviolent persons accused of minor offenses do not need to be jailed to protect public safety. As a faith based organization, we support funding for "Option 1" as the most humane and financially viable.

We endorse and ask that you vote for "Option 1", to:

- Add one housing pod to the North County Jail (not to exceed 256 new beds);
- Retain/remodel 128 beds in the South County jail's Inmate Reception Center
- Develop strategies and funding for jail population management, including diversion and other community-based alternatives.

344 certified beds are already available in the North County jail, and the new pod would add 256 more beds. There will also be 128 intake beds in the south county jail resulting in 728 beds total. Option 1 will be sufficient for the projected jail population based on the additional reductions from early representation and the expert population projection of Michael Wilson.

CLUE SB supports option 1 for the following reasons:

- The ten year 2022 data released by the Sheriff's Department shows a downward trend in total crime statistics for Santa Barbara County, consistent with the Wilson demographic projections.
- We can reduce the jail population safely. About 70% of those currently in our County jails are neither tried, nor convicted; they are awaiting trial. 65% are accused of felonies, but not convicted felons. For many accused felons of non-violent crimes, charges will be reduced as misdemeanors with minimal jail time.
- An estimated 30% or more of those currently held in jail suffer mental health challenges. For non-violent low level offenders, community-based treatment is a better use of public funds.
- Early Representation and holistic advocacy by the Public Defender, will help reduce the number of people in jail who do not need to be there. Our District Attorneys' diversion programs will also help.

Radhule Weinger, Ph.D., MD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Psychotherapy & Mindfulness Meditation

Jerry Menchaca
Pastor, New Beginning Community Church
jerrymentchaca@aol.com

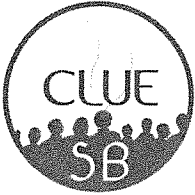
- Creating a larger jail is not sustainable since there is insufficient staff to meet current needs.
- Our County can use funds more wisely than building and maintaining unnecessary jail capacity, forcing mandatory overtime. We can always create a plan for new beds as needed.

Option 1 is the only choice that safely, humanely meets the Murray settlement requirements in a financially responsible way. We are at a critical crossroad to determine how public safety will be achieved in our community. All the evidence directs us to reduce rather than increase the number of jail beds, increase helpful community based alternatives rather than harmful jail placement, and develop strategies for preventative diversions rather than arrest.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Severance Co-Chair Criminal Justice Workgroup

Maureen Earls Co-Chair Criminal Justice Workgroup
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice Santa Barbara



CLUE Santa Barbara

Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

1500 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 clue@cluesb.org

CLUE SB is a network of interfaith community leaders and members organizing to address the root causes of local economic injustices to those marginalized in Santa Barbara County