

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Sheriff

From: Sandi Lester <sandilester9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: 2021 budget hearings



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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the 2021 sheriff's budget:

It appears that the sheriff receives 15% (\$165M) of the total budget, including 19% (\$82M) of the general fund.

Do plan to reallocate any of these funds to address the public's concerns about police funding reform?

Thank you,
Sandi Lester
Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Sarah Innes-Gold <sinnesgold@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment: Sheriff Dept Budget

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To the clerk of the board of supervisors,

I submit the following comment in support of decreasing the sheriff's department budget. If there is time, please read into the record at tomorrow's meeting.

As listed on the F.B.I.'s Crime Data Explorer, nearly half (49.8%) of arrests made by the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department are for drug/alcohol-related offenses (1083 arrests for drug possession, excluding sale/manufacturing, 778 for alcohol laws and drunkenness, excluding driving under the influence). Data collected by Police ScoreCard suggest that only 6% of arrests made by the Sheriff's Department in the past three years are for violent crimes. In view of these statistics, it does not make sense to allocate \$165 million dollars to the Sheriff Department's budget. Instead, consider reallocating funds towards homeless housing assistance, youth programs, and support for those experiencing substance abuse. Well-funded programs to support the community will prevent more crimes than policing, and will do so without inflicting violence and disproportionately targeting black and latinx populations.

Across the country, ongoing police violence against black Americans has prompted protests, and too often police have responded to these protests with renewed violence. This is not a new problem, but now is our chance to address it at the local level. Sheriff Brown's comments at the Goleta City Council meeting (regarding chokeholds, civilian review boards, and diversity) suggest a disregard for the urgency and scope of these problems. This is all the more reason to shift resources away from the Sheriff's Department and towards social programs that improve community health and safety.

I have lived in SB county for five years. I hope you will work towards centering the needs of the community.

Best,
Sarah Innes-Gold