

**From:** Pamela Flynt Tambo <pambotambo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 5:00 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Documents for BOS Meeting on 7-12-2022  
**Attachments:** final LWVSB BOS Pub. Cmt. 22-0712.docx; LWV&CLUE FINAL BOS Ltr 22-7-1 (1).docx



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Hello--

I am attaching 2 documents for the BOS Meeting tomorrow on 7-12.

Comments which we hope to make in person (by Zoom) at the meeting regarding agenda item County Executive Office - 22-00641 are attached.

Also attached is a letter which we sent to each supervisor and others on July 1 regarding the same issues 22-00641.

Thank you for entering these into the record.

Best regards,  
Pam

Pam Flynt Tambo  
805.451.4340  
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Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

-Desmond Tutu



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

TO: Clerk of the Board  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

FROM: Vicki Allen, Vice President, LWVSB  
Pam Flynt Tambo, Vice President LWVSB  
Maureen Earls, Chair CLUE-SB Workgroup on Criminal Justice

RE: Public Comment for Board of Supervisor Meeting on July 12, 2022

The joint criminal justice group of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of Santa Barbara are here today to thank CEO Miyasato and Judge Ellsworth for all the work to bring about the Collaborative Criminal Justice Improvements outlined in Attachment A presented today and especially for including the community voice in the listed reforms. We commend the Improvement Report for its visual and informative format. We have observed, advocated for, and supported this work along the way and will continue to monitor progress leading to safe reductions in incarceration.

We urged preparation of the jail population study that now confirms the prospect for planning a remodel of the south county jail far below the original projection of 800-1000 beds. The optional policies laid out in Michael Wilson's expert report are already underway. If all the criminal justice partners do their part to implement the 9 strategies "to prioritize rehabilitation over incarceration" elevating "safety, justice, wellness and equity," the jail population in the Santa Barbara jail could be reduced to 250-300 persons. This would save the county millions of dollars on what will surely be a costly remodel.

Three areas we will be watching closely are key to jail population reductions and preventing recidivism:

1. The first and top priority is to ensure compliance with jail residents' access to their attorneys. To date, progress has been slow in developing and implementing an access plan.
2. We applaud expansion of holistic defense (initiative or 8) and call attention to the need for General Fund Funding when grants expire in June 2023.
3. We seek a firm timeline for integrating criminal justice data into a county dashboard (initiative 7) enabling CJ partners and the public to track and analyze data to make data-driven decisions regarding the effectiveness and progress of reforms

Finally, we request you put in the record today our letter of July 1 to the Board acknowledging the County's collaboration with the community in our criminal justice work: healing a broken system, building good neighbors, making the community safer, and saving millions in unnecessary incarceration while keeping in jail those who would harm the community.



(Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

July 1, 2022

Dear Chair Hartmann and Supervisors:

CLUE Santa Barbara and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara thank you County Supervisors, and also each of our Public Safety Department leaders for your collaborative efforts to arrive at the budget decisions for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Your decisions show continuing support for criminal justice reforms that move our County toward the transformational changes we seek.

**We acknowledge you for funding progress in criminal justice reform and encourage your continuing attention to each of the following:**

**1. Progress in System Reform - Accountability.** During 2021-2022, your Funding enabled Public Safety Departments to create on-line dashboards to improve transparency. The Probation Department led the way. With assistance from Probation, the Sheriff's office now maintains a dashboard for the jail population that is updated monthly as well as a daily report of how many persons are held in custody in each facility. **The District Attorney's dashboard has statistics only through 2021. The Board should encourage all departments to ramp up and coordinate their accountability in a report the public can easily understand.** Transparency across all departments is critical to accomplish evidence-based reform.

2. **Progress Toward Jail Population Reduction.** The Sheriff's jail dashboard shows us that, currently, about 80% of jail residents (about 600 people) are unsentenced. With this visible benchmark, our County CEO and Supervisors can hold Departments accountable for successful identification and release of unsentenced persons who carry a presumption of innocence and who are non-violent or found not to be a risk to our community.

To facilitate this for 2022-2023 you have approved funding for a new **Risk Assessment Coordinator** to be hired through the Probation Department to coordinate and improve risk assessments and enable more effective networking with community diversion options. All departments seem to agree that unnecessary incarceration is disruptive and harmful to individuals and their families causing loss of jobs and housing. It is also extremely costly for the County. KPMG stated it costs about \$66,000 per jail resident per year. This money would be better spent on community-based diversion opportunities and support services to help build good neighbors and transition people from criminal justice involvement to safe, sustainable lives. We recommend that you require our criminal justice departments to present periodic, public updates on specific reforms in risk assessments, progress in increasing diversions, and successful unsentenced releases.

3. **Progress Toward Departmental Equity.** Budgets and staffing for the District Attorney's office and Public Defender's office are historically skewed and inequitable. We support a more equitable balance. This year's budget increases the D.A.'s staff by four and the Public Defender staff by ten. This is a small step toward equity, but still leaves the P.D. short by nearly 50 positions in comparison to D.A. staff. Continuing inequities contribute to excessive caseloads beyond accepted benchmark standards while unconscionable numbers wait in jail for their cases to be resolved. **We support continued funding efforts toward equity between the two adversarial departments (District Attorney and Public Defender). We also support stream-lining of case management and improved Court scheduling to accelerate the rate at which unsentenced peoples' cases are adjudicated.**

4. **Increased Successful Diversions.** Holistic advocacy in which a person's broader life circumstances are taken into consideration creates durable outcomes that reduce the numbers of justice-involved individuals in our County. We encourage your increased understanding and support for holistic advocacy as a valuable program to improve risk assessment and sentencing/diversion alternatives that reduce incarceration and recidivism. **We support increasing holistic advocacy and continued collection of public Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) data to provide evidence-based results to document success.**

5. **Progress in Oversight of Jail Remodel and Design.** You have hired a jail population expert and contracted with an architectural firm to provide guidance on how

best to spend County funds to remodel the South County Jail pursuant to a federal court mandate. You have asked our County CEO to prepare recommendations based on this input. We commend the Board for this investment and analysis before approving any size or design. This kind of proactive financial responsibility will potentially save the County millions of dollars and reduce recidivism through updated, structural designs that create more humane living conditions and benefits for staff and residents of direct supervision. **We urge you to follow the population projection expert guidance and include community input in deciding the scope and design of the South County Jail remodel.**

Thank you for the progress you have made in improving justice for people involved in the criminal justice system in our county. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue with these reforms.

CLUE – SANTA BARBARA

Criminal Justice Workgroup

Maureen Earls

Maureen Earls, Co-chair

Larry Severance

Larry Severance, Ph.D., J.D.,  
Co-chair

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SANTA BARBARA

Social Policy Committee

Vicki Allen

Vicki Allen, VP Communications

Pam Flynt Tambo

Pamela Flynt Tambo, VP Programs

cc: Sheriff Bill Brown  
Supervisor Elect Laura Capps  
District Attorney Joyce Dudley  
Judge Sherrill Ellsworth  
Probation Chief Tanja Heitman  
Public Defender Tracy Macuga  
CEO Mona Miyasato  
District Attorney Elect John Savrnoch