

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
4434 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

April 16, 2018

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu St., Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

To Whom It May Concern,

We have reviewed the Office of the Sheriff Budget document. It is clear that because of the costs to the County for the Thomas fire and the tragic Montecito debris flow, there are now difficult budgetary decisions for the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff's Office for FY2018-19.

It is with grave concern, however, that we see you are proposing severe cuts to the Isla Vista Foot Patrol, namely 3 full-time positions (2.7 FTE). We are long-term residents of Isla Vista and have seen the revolving cycles of a poorly-versus-adequately staffed IVFP. We do not need to remind you of the visual images of the past chaos and tragedy in our community. These have not been experienced by any other community in the County.

We request you reconsider your reductions to the Foot Patrol for these reasons as well as the following:

- IV has the highest population density in the County comprised of mainly college-age youth who are more prone to activities that can go easily out of control.
- Lately there has been an increase, on IV's West End, of non-student strangers making unwanted, disturbing contact with residents, usually in the late night/early morning hours.
- Opioid, alcohol and other substance abuse crises are on the rise in Isla Vista. Evidence of this is given in numerous PEN reports and to members of the community at local meetings (e.g. UCSB Housing Advisory Committee, Community Resource Network). Pill-bowl parties are now also a concern in IV.
- After the Deltopia riots and the tragic shooting of four years ago, many students, deputies, UCSB administrators and residents have worked extremely hard, collaborating to try to change the culture in Isla Vista. One example is a student program that coordinates with the Foot Patrol to help with party control and ensuring the safety of students trying to get from one place to another during the night-time hours on the weekends. The students partner with Foot Patrol officers. There are many other examples of work the community has done in this direction and, by report, these have been working. Cuts to the Foot Patrol could very well, and most likely will, undermine the progress we have worked hard to achieve. It would be a blow to the student efforts.

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To conclude, many of the current students were not in Isla Vista during the tumultuous times over the past years and do not have the long-term memory of the permanent residents. We do not want to go backward into another cycle of increased crime and injury due to cuts to the Foot Patrol. Isla Vista is a community where families send their children and permanent residents live. We strongly request you maintain the staff levels at the IVFP to ensure the safety of all concerned.

Respectfully,

Sue Whisenand
Rick and Janet Stich
Gerry Winant
Ann Sanders
Spencer Brandt
Kathryn Miller
Florence Klein
Billy Buckles
Tram Pham
Bill Pearson
Bonnie Adams
Kim Yasuda
Dave Hubbard
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Jon and Pegeen Soutar
John and Diane Nathan
Lily Sanders