

April 18, 2018

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



Dear Sherriff Brown,

The Isla Vista Community Network (IVCN) was established in 1996 and is Isla Vista's oldest continuously meeting community group. Its membership includes representatives from Isla Vista Youth Projects, Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, UCSB Associated Students, UCSB Office of Student Life, Isla Vista Arts, UCSB Administration, Isla Vista Tenants Union, Isla Vista Teen Center, UCSB PD, Isla Vista Foot Patrol, Isla Vista Food Cooperative, SB County Public Works and General Services, local business owners and individual residents, just to name a few. Due to the broad representation, Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann attends our meetings and looks to the IVCN for vital community updates, information and perspectives.

The Isla Vista Community Network's mission is to foster and maintain a committed network of people and organizations that strive to improve and enhance the quality of life in Isla Vista (IV). At our meeting on April 12th, the membership unanimously expressed their extreme concern over your proposal to cut resources to the Isla Vista Foot Patrol and asked me to write this letter.

As you know, IV is the most volatile community in the unincorporated area of the County. Gang activity and lethal substance abuse are on the rise, while trust and respect between many students and law enforcement is on the decline. It is my belief that the mistrust is growing because the Foot Patrol is seen by some as a reactionary enforcement agency, instead of the originally intended community based policing agency that builds relationships with community members. As a 40 year resident of Isla Vista I understand the challenges the deputies face, and understand they have a near impossible job as the population continues to grow without commensurate growth in the number of deputies.

The addition of the Community Service Deputy was definitely a step in the right direction, and we have seen positive results, but there is still much work to be done. We believe that by reducing the number of deputies it will only serve to further deteriorate relationships and contribute to the perception of an even more reactive police force and further alienate law enforcement from the younger members of the community.

As you well know, since the tragedies of 2014, students, law enforcement, community members and stakeholders in and out of IV have invested countless hours and dollars in an attempt to create cultural change and stability in the community. We are asking that you honor and support that work and keep Foot Patrol staffing at current levels, or possibly even increase the number of deputies to keep our community safe.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may provide you with additional information about the IVCN, our past accomplishments or our goals for the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Gould", written over a horizontal line.

Rodney Gould
Chair
Isla Vista Community Network
805-722-7120
rgould@ivparks.org

cc: Das Williams, Janet Wolf, Joan Hartmann, Peter Adams and Steve Lavagnino