

Dear Supervisors,

I want to provide a bit of context to the e-comment I submitted regarding a framework to establish a Citizens Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement.

The reason why any type of advisory or review of law enforcement is generally deemed necessary is for the sake of transparency on the part of law enforcement in order to provide quality policing and to build community trust. It's clear in my mind that those who law enforcement agencies most need to build trust with are members of the community who have made complaints about misconduct; my guess is that most complaints of misconduct in Mendocino County are from people of color and poor people.

So, the context I want to provide on my e-comment is my belief that a framework for any effective advisory/oversight committee must be developed from the perspective of those **most** in need of a trusting relationship with law enforcement. I believe that only when the community most at risk of being mistreated by the police have a voice and a vote -- veto-proof when in the majority -- in evaluating and responding to police policies and conduct, will trust be built. And I believe trust is built the same way, whether the community in question is a densely populated urban city or a sprawling rural county: through empowering community oversight with actual power rather than simply the privilege to advise.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Durham  
Ukiah