

Dear Supervisors,

As a resident of Mendocino County, I am writing to express support for the recommendation to audit the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and other related public protection budgets.

The county budget category for the MCSO and corrections has increased by MORE THAN \$21 MILLION IN JUST 5 YEARS.

Only weeks ago we saw video footage of the Ukiah Police brutally attacking a naked and UNARMED man who was having a mental health crisis. We do not need policing for MENTAL HEALTH. Please watch: <https://mendovoice.com/2021/04/ukiah-police-department-officers-beat-mentally-ill-man-gerardo-magdaleno/>

We need more funding for mental health assistance and programs.

Fort Bragg, Willits, Ukiah, all of our towns have individuals and families without housing. Any is TOO MANY. Many homeless people suffer from mental illness and / or substance addiction.

We need funding to go toward affordable housing programs and programs to assist with substance abuse.

There are currently protests over how Jackson Demonstration State Forest is moving forward with a THP that marks many 100- 200 year old trees for harvest.

We need funding to go toward developing forest management that is appropriate to our current context of climate crisis, drought and ailing watersheds, and most importantly the annual record setting fire catastrophe - locating and hiring indigenous leadership and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to lead.

Bottom line: we need to take better care of our communities and police them LESS.

Mendocino County Board of Sups will benefit greatly by auditing the MCSO in making more informed spending and budgeting decisions. Ones that will benefit ALL of Mendo residents and gain insight on where spending is no longer necessary for MCSO and corrections *as the Sheriff's Office should not be responsible for nor even involved in mental health issues, substance addiction, homelessness or dealing with tree sits.*

Thank you for representing this voice.
Kyra Rice