

**ORDINANCE NO. 4495**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 2.39 TO TITLE 2 OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CODE ENTITLED PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 2020, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Mendocino established an ad hoc committee to meet with the Mendocino County Sheriff and members of the community to explore the creation of a Public Safety Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the ad hoc committee had multiple meetings with the Mendocino County Sheriff and members of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 1, 2020, the ad hoc committee reported its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the form and creation of a Public Safety Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors wishes to create a Public Safety Advisory Board, to facilitate communication between the public and law enforcement and increase transparency.

Now therefore, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino ordains as follows:

**Section 1.** Chapter 2.39 is hereby added to Title 2 of the Mendocino County Code to read as follows:

**Chapter 2.39 – Public Safety Advisory Board**

Sec. 2.39.010 – Public Safety Advisory Board.

Sec. 2.39.020 – Members.

Sec. 2.39.030 – Terms.

Sec. 2.39.040 – Powers and Duties.

Sec. 2.39.050 – Bylaws.

Sec. 2.39.060 – Limitations.

**Section 2.39.010 – Public Safety Advisory Board.**

There is hereby created a Public Safety Advisory Board to make reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mendocino County Sheriff related to law enforcement and public safety. The Public Safety Advisory Board shall meet in a manner consistent with the Brown Act.

**Section 2.39.020 – Members.**

The Public Safety Advisory Board shall consist of seven members. The members shall be as follows:

- (A) One member shall be a current member of the Board of Supervisors, appointed to the Public Safety Advisory Board by action of the Board of Supervisors;
- (B) Five members shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, with each Supervisor nominating one member; and
- (C) One member shall be the Mendocino County Sheriff, or his or her designee.

Members of the Public Safety Advisory Board need to be residents of any particular

supervisory district. The Board of Supervisors, however, shall endeavor to appoint members with strong ties to a range of populations within the County, so as to best capture the so as to best capture the full scope of concerns and viewpoints of the residents of the County.

**Section 2.39.030 – Terms.**

- (A) Each member of the Public Safety Advisory Board shall serve a term beginning the day after the first meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in a calendar year and lasting until the first meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in the following calendar year.
- (B) In the event that one or more new members are not appointed at the first meeting of a calendar year, each member of the Public Safety Advisory Board shall continue in that capacity until such time as a successor is appointed.
- (C) The Board of Supervisors shall have the authority to remove or replace any member of the Public Safety Advisory Board who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Section 2.39.040 – Powers and Duties.**

The Public Safety Advisory Board shall be an advisory body charged with making reports and recommendations to the Mendocino County Sheriff and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on matters related to public safety. Additionally, the Public Safety Advisory Board shall:

- (A) Outreach to the Mendocino County public, provide options for community input, and receive input from community in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways on matters related to law enforcement and public safety.
- (B) Examine and report on interdepartmental issues related to law enforcement and public safety.
- (C) Review public safety concerns by: (1) ensuring that complaints are appropriately dealt with for County employees, (2) receiving resident concerns, suggestions, complaints, and compliments about County employees and forward them to the appropriate department for review, (3) producing a public report about the issues, concerns, complaints and recommendations on a summary level, and (4) considering public safety concerns and promote appropriate communication, interaction, and problem-solving strategies.
- (D) Review current policies for compliance with applicable law.
- (E) Review redacted reports presented to the use of force review board and provide objective and independent evaluation of reviews of use of force.
- (F) Engage in community outreach to better ascertain if additional trainings are required, and educate the public about those trainings that are performed.
- (G) Nominate a member of the public to the use of force review board.

**Section 2.39.050 – Bylaws.**

The Public Safety Advisory Board shall prepare and recommend bylaws governing its operations, which shall become effective upon adoption by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

**Section 2.39.060 – Limitations.**

The Public Safety Advisory Board shall have only those powers granted to it by the Board of Supervisors through this ordinance or other appropriate action. In no event shall the Public Safety Advisory Board be authorized to:

- (A) Change the decisions made by the Sheriff's Office or any County department.
- (B) Decide policies for the Sheriff's Office or any County department.
- (C) Impose discipline on any Sheriff employee or any County employee.
- (D) Conduct its own investigations.
- (E) Interfere with the performance of the Sheriff's Office or any County department.
- (F) Compel by subpoena the production of any document or witness related to a Sheriff's Office or any County department.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulherren, Haschak, Gjerde, and Williams  
 NOES: None  
 ABSENT: None

**WHEREUPON**, the Chair declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and **SO ORDERED**.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

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Deputy

*APPROVED AS TO FORM:*  
Christian M. Curtis, County Counsel

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Dan Gjerde, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Clerk of the Board

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Deputy