

Dan,

I have long thought we needed some kind of citizens' review board for law enforcement in Mendocino County. Reading the proposal put forward by Troyle Tognoli of Mendocino Chapter of Black Lives Matter, it seems comprehensive and detailed, both in what it empowers a committee to do and the limitations it places on the committee's operation. I do have concerns that imposing this sort of detailed charter, for lack of a better word, on MCSO without some kind of collaborative process involving Sheriff Kendall and representatives of the Deputies Association, runs the risk of creating a hostile or conflictful relationship between law enforcement and parts of the community, and the appearance of scapegoating local law enforcement for the crimes of law enforcement in distant cities. Although in the recent past, I have not been aware of any truly glaring acts of violence or violations of people's rights, I am aware of a number from the last 20 years, some of which got deftly swept under rugs.

In summary I support the proposal, but not necessarily the abruptness of the process. As a middle ground, I would support the creation of an ad-hoc committee consisting of two supervisors, perhaps Williams and Haschak, people representing the Native community, particularly outside the Ukiah Valley, Sheriff Kendall and a representative from the Deputy Sheriff's Association, and perhaps one representative appointed by each Supervisor. This ad-hoc committee would be tasked with developing a charter for a Citizens Advisory and Oversight group to bring back to the Supervisors with perhaps a two to three month timeline. The question the ad-hoc committee would be tasked with is clearly not do we need an Advisory and Oversight committee, but how to structure and charter such a committee so that it meets the needs of the citizens while working to improve citizen/law enforcement relationships and law enforcement performance in the field, both for the safety of citizens and the safety of law enforcement officer.

Thanks,

--j

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"Once in a while,
You get shown the light,
In the strangest of places
If you look at it right."
-- Robert Hunter