

I am writing to urge the Board of Supervisors to vote in favor of starting a Citizens Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight (CACLEO). Wherever these are implemented it improves police performance automatically by knowing they are now more accountable to review of their actions, and the community's trust of the government rises. I am so glad the issue is being brought up for a vote and I hope you make the decision to create this important role in our county.

Some things I think you should consider strengthening in the proposed role: provide funding for the CACLEO to do independent investigations. This may seem like it costs more money, but in fact you can reduce the Sheriff's Department budget accordingly as they no longer need to do the same level of investigations of themselves, and everyone knows that investigating yourself is not the highest quality of accountability. Along with this, give the CACLEO some authority, the Sheriff should not be allowed to simply ignore the recommendations/suggestions made by CACLEO.

Maybe I misread the proposal, but I did not see clearly how the citizens will be chosen for the Advisory Committee. In many places it is determined by each Supervisor getting to appoint someone from their district which could work. I have been reading about this and it is extremely important that retired and current police officers are not allowed to be in the committee. Please consider making this clear.

Remember, so many jobs have oversight of the employees, I have seen the Sheriff already speaking negatively about this proposal but I think he is only showing the need for CACLEO. I am a teacher, I can't imagine if my profession lacked oversight, or anyone saying we don't need oversight, thank you for creating this important new role, the CACLEO.

Andy Wellspring