

June 23, 2020

To the Board of Supervisors,

I strongly oppose the proposed ordinance for a Citizen's Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight (CACLEO).

I first want to point out that the Board is responsible for putting our current Sheriff (Kendall) into place, considering Sheriff Allman's retirement. You are the folks that believed, first and foremost, in the system as you'd put in place, a person of integrity, values, morals, and common sense. I understand the unrest in community and country currently and believe me I HIGHLY am against any sort of racism or other unjust treatment by anyone TO anyone, however developing this committee in such a rushed and unequivocally unorganized manner is an obviously politically driven initiative.

Regarding the "mission," (Section 1b): who is proposed to be employed to do this? A citizen with a vendetta? Who determines if the objective provided is objective itself? An elected official? The Sheriff? If we want another place to provide members of the public to complain, develop an anonymous hotline, hire one "citizen" to work for the Sheriff's dept, since the Mendocino County is paying for everything.

(Section 1c) Who decides what is thoughtful? That is a vague term. This leaves too much room for opinions and less room for facts, based on my own "citizen" opinion.

(Section 1d) Has there been formal complaints filed regarding lack of transparency of law enforcement operations, policies, and procedures that are legally allowable to be released but haven't? I'd like those complaints to be brought to the table **before** any committee is developed. I've only heard about **increased** transparency happening, not the county law enforcement hiding information. Consider that we live in a very dangerous community that most people do not see the likes of every day. You go to work and go to the lake, take a trip or two, safe as can be. I think about all the crime in the hills I'd like to go hiking in. I think of the pot grows and mafia lurking in the hills, patrolling their crops. I think of the people that come north or come to our state and never make it home because they are in a shallow grave somewhere. Do you think the citizen's committee is going to be able to make sure those going out to handle police business are able to sufficiently tell our sheriff and police officers how to deal with arresting those individuals fairly and justly? No. And no. Citizen education and experience is not relevant to that situation.

(Section 1e) Hire a marketing coordinator to promote and engage public and community. There are a lot of citizens qualified for that, it does not need to involve a committee. It's also cheaper.

(Section 2a) If the board had issue with Sheriff Kendall upon his induction to position, they should have proposed this committee back in December or January. To do this when there is such unrest is obviously politically driven. Without doing a google search, I'd wonder when the next reelection is for the supervisors that put this on the agenda.

I could continue to pick apart the proposal section by section. All I see are recommendations for things that already exist or can be done by hiring a marketer. The sheriff and police departments all have Internal Affairs, do they not? They are also made to answer to the Department of Justice, the Mendocino County District Attorney, the Attorney General, and the Mendocino County Grand Jury. My guess is that all those agencies ALSO have complaint departments. Why would Mendocino County want to waste precious dollars of our limited budget for something that already exists? For supervisors that are so concerned about budgets, especially regarding policing our rugged county, this proposal seems out of the norm, not well thought-out, and politically driven. I believe there are many other FREE and low-cost options that do not involve the committee as described. Develop a county committee that has everything to do with involving Fire Depts, Police, Healthcare, Schools, Careers, eliminating racial divides, and NOTHING to do with spending money on singling out a particular class of profession, that has yet to show OUR county there is a problem. Keep the politics out of my community agencies, please. I have lived in Mendocino County over 25 years, raised my family here, and worked in healthcare with many of the different agencies as listed above. I can tell you with conviction that nothing would do our community more good than to do things together, rather than divide us apart with this committee as proposed.

Sincerely,

Angela Torres

Ukiah, CA