

August 3, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah Ca. 95482

Re: Agenda Item 8c

Dear Board of Supervisors

I am writing in support of Sheriff Kendall. This lawsuit discussion is a direct result of the threat, by the Board, to Sheriff Kendall, of holding him personally responsible for budget overruns that he has no control over. The BOS is now in a no win situation as this lawsuit, were it to go forward, would be lost by the County. The Board cannot underfund the Sheriff's Office budget if it hampers his investigative authority, as mandated by the State Constitution, and then bill him for any overruns.

The concerns regarding the Sheriffs "lack of transparency" regarding his budget, as expressed by other letter writers, is a red herring. BOS needs to clarify to the public that the budget submitted by the Sherriff is not the budget that ultimately is published. Despite the fact that he asked for 1.1 million in overtime the executive office has listed this number as zero. The executive office estimates revenues and budget line items are discounted based on expected revenues. This has been a longstanding practice by the executive office to underfund the Sheriff's office then work it out later when all the revenues come in. The public assumes that the Sheriff did not request any money for overtime. Even Supervisor Williams seems to be operating under this misconception, as he referenced the zero number for overtime in a Facebook posting. No wonder there is so much confusion.

In my personal dealings with Matt Kendall I have found him to be responsive and honest. My advice to anyone who has concerns about his budget is to ask him directly.

I encourage the Board to vote unanimously for "no conflict" and offer an apology to Sherriff Kendall for putting him in a position that he would need to weigh public safety against losing his house. Nor is it appropriate to try and merge his IT department with the County's due to confidentiality concerns. We need our Sherriff to be focused on his job protecting us. He needs to know that the BOS and CEO are here to to support him.

Sincerely

Marilyn Magoffin
Covelo/ Albion