

re: The Need for A Citizens Advisory Committee

I believe Mendocino County should begin the process of creating a Citizens Advisory Committee to make sure that the Sheriff's Department and other police agencies do not violate the civil rights of county residents.

In 2014 Steven Neuroth was murdered by Sheriff's Office deputies and staff at the Mendocino County jail, in an incident similar to the circumstances surrounding the death of George Floyd. Numerous officers were kneeling and holding down the subdued subject, and in the process they killed him. The S.O. subsequently engaged in a blatant cover-up of the incident. The county ultimately paid out \$5 million in a wrongful death lawsuit and agreed to sweeping reforms, but these reforms have not been made public. Since the only oversight allowed by the Board of Supervisors is monetary, a Citizens Advisory committee is definitely needed.

In reviewing daily arrest record records made public by the Anderson Valley Advertiser, with mugshots and explanations of the charges against subjects, an alarming percentage of those brought to the jail show black eyes and cuts and abrasions around the head and face. It needs to be determined if these injuries are the result of their own actions, or police abuse. Whether police brutality is instigated by the Sheriff's Office, the Highway Patrol, city police departments, State Park rangers, Fish and Wildlife wardens, or any other police agency, the bad apples in these agencies need to be brought to light and no longer hidden by the thin blue line of silence and cover-up.

I therefore strongly support the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee.

David Gurney
Fort Bragg, CA