

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thanks for all your hard work in this time of crisis.

While I am generally in favor of the concept behind the poorly named "Defund the Police" movement, which I read as spreading the duties among other Community organizations so that the police can better do their jobs, this is a little more at home for me.

This came to my attention when the current Sheriff refused to provide a budget for overtime, entering a \$0 line item. When pressed, he stated that is just the way it's done, ignoring that a balanced budget is a Board requirement. The next day he returned, estimating overtime charges for his Deputies over the next year at a trifling amount, though the answer soon became evident that it was closer to 50x that figure the previous year.

When it looked clear that we'd have to pull public money from County roads, a needed new roof, Juvenile Hall, the Potter Valley water project, a museum, and a reduction in the general reserve, the Sheriff did not like this, complained, but still offered no budgetary solution in order to fulfill the requirement.

We are about to enter the County's most precarious year ever - COVID has decimated our economy, we have lost millions in potential revenue from poor cannabis management - our sole other revenue source, while our primary revenue source, tourism, is lying crippled on the ground, and the Corona Virus still approaches. If ever we needed a sound budget plan, this is the year.

Law enforcement uses about 57% of County resources, they have no oversight, and magically expect funds to appear, actually impeding the Constitutional requirement and sound business sense to work within budgets - while diverting these funds away from other Community service organizations and needs.

This \$0 line item entry was just the pebble in the road that drew my attention. Once considered, it becomes evident that law enforcement has virtually no oversight whatsoever - a salient topic within the clime of the current international Black Lives Matter movement.

I am a 12 year firefighter, now retired, and have worked alongside the Police and Deputies on innumerable scenes, and have no direct issue with them. Yet I am coming to agree that every office needs some sort of accountability. I'm a broker and am regulated via a license to behave ethically and responsibly, as are nurses, doctors, contractors, and a whole host of industries. It's commonly called oversight.

We, especially now, should be standing up for a system that disproportionately targets the poor, minorities, women, etc - this is our role. Why wait until you have a problem to have oversight? Moreover, responsible fiscal management is key to long-term growth and survival during a global crisis whose true scope of devastation is yet to be understood.

I am writing today to urge all of you to pass the proposed Citizens Oversight Committee, and help protect citizens with fiscal responsibility and perhaps even more directly through abuse recourse, during these coming years of crisis.

Thank you for reading this and I sincerely hope you and yours are faring well during this trying time - I know it is stressful.

Scott Roat