

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jeanette Shribbs and I am a resident of Mendocino County. I am writing to demand that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors adopt a county budget that prioritizes community wellbeing, and redirects funding away from the Sheriff's Department, Juvenile Hall, Jail and Probation offices. In the proposed budget, these 4 departments make up 43% of the overall budget. Given the circumstances of the public health crisis, it is more urgent than ever that the Board of Supervisors redirect a significant portion of this budget towards proactive programs that prevent crime and improve living conditions. I demand a budget that reflects the real needs of Mendocino County residents including affordable housing programs, community based mental health services, and more.

- Immediately fire sheriffs who have excessive force complaints.
- Create a separate department to respond to mental health crises.
- Require Sheriff's, not the county, to be liable for misconduct and violence settlements. Suspend the use of paid administrative leave for cops under investigation.
- Publish money spent on settlements.
- Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians. Comprehensive reporting includes requiring officers to report whenever they point a firearm at someone, in addition to all other types of force.
- Increase the budget for Child Protective Services to provide more wrap around services for high risk families.
- Allowing officers to choke or strangle civilians results in the unnecessary death or serious injury of civilians. Both chokeholds and all other neck restraints must be banned in all cases.
- Make the Sheriff's Union contract negotiation public.
- Require officers to give a verbal warning in all situations before using deadly force.
- Require officers to exhaust all other alternatives, including non-force and less lethal force options, prior to resorting to deadly force.
- Ban officers from shooting at moving vehicles in all cases, which is regarded as a particularly dangerous and ineffective tactic. While some departments may restrict shooting at vehicles to particular situations, these loopholes allow for police to continue killing in situations that are all too common. 62 people were killed by police last year in these situations. This must be categorically banned.
- Establish a Force Continuum that restricts the most severe types of force to the most extreme situations and creates clear policy restrictions on the use of each police weapon and tactic.
- Require officers to exhaust all other alternatives, including non-force and less lethal force options, prior to resorting to deadly force.
- Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.
- Fully cut funding for public relations.

Thank you for your time,
Jeanette Shribbs