

Hello supervisors,

In large part due to the recent high-profile mistreatment and murder of black citizens across our country and subsequent protests, jurisdictions across the U.S. are altering or even ending relationships with police departments and exploring what defunding law enforcement would look like for their localities. Directing more resources to community services could positively impact the community, vital public resources such as the library system, museums, environmental health, mental health services, and social services. We need to find more non-police solutions to issues facing our communities and to better fund successful programs that improve the quality of life in Mendocino County, especially programs led by and supporting people of color.

I am curious what conversations have occurred among leaders in Mendocino County regarding how to create a more ethical and equitable justice system. I hope you are taking time to assess ways we could create a more just society, as communities all over our country are doing, and finding ways to redirect and incorporate funding into the 2020-2021 budget for these efforts.

Thank you for your time,
Katy Brantley