

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am a resident of Mendocino County. I am writing to demand that the Board of Supervisors adopt a budget strategy that prioritizes community well-being including investment in Native Pomo communities by redirecting funds away from the sheriff's department in the next budget evaluation period.

The time has come to change ineffective institutions that actively marginalize minority and low-income communities. Our local government MUST evolve to prevent the escalation of racism and police brutality that is overwhelmingly present in our system. I ask that you redirect a significant portion of the police budget toward community programs that provide citizens with basic human needs like affordable healthcare and housing. We do not want a militarized police force. We want to improve safety and strength in our community by appropriately funding health service providers, social workers, education systems, and victim/survivor advocate services. We want to see grants offered to community leaders and projects. We want our funds administered intelligently to benefit oppressed minorities in our county. Real, actionable change starts with reallocating funding in a manner consistent with these priorities.

As the Board of Supervisors in Mendocino County, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. We can be a beacon of hope for other counties. We can provide an example of innovative and compassionate action. We can create a better future; if only we have the courage to change.

Thank you for your time,

Layne Roytman

Little River, California