

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am a resident of Mendocino. I am writing to ask that the Board of Supervisors adopt a budget strategy that prioritizes community well-being 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. Therefore, our local government MUST evolve to prevent the escalation of racism and police brutality that is overwhelmingly present in our system. This starts with redirecting a significant portion of the police budget toward community programs that provide citizens with essential needs and support. We do not want a militarized police force. We want to improve safety in our community by solving housing issues, appropriately funding health services, social workers, education systems, and victim/survivor advocate services. We want to see grants offered to community organizations and projects that support diversity and inclusion. We want funds administered to uplift native Pomo communities. Real, actionable change starts with reallocating funding in a manner consistent with the priorities of the people.

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 have hope through innovative and compassionate action. We can create a better future, if we have the courage to change.

Thank you for your time,

Erica Schneider

45104 Main Street, Mendocino

[615-491-1566](tel:6154911566)