

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I want to express my deep appreciation for the energy you have dedicated to creating the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB), and support your ongoing efforts to ensure the PSAB is effective in serving *all people* of Mendocino County with the much needed check-and-balance that has been missing from the elected office of the Sheriff's until now.

The Mendocino County PSAB was created because of the new CA law, [AB-1185 County board of supervisors: sheriff oversight.\(2019-2020\)](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1185)
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Currently the Mendo Sheriff does their own investigations into their own issues and there is no check-and-balance, nor accountability, other than the blind trust of the public - and why CA LAW AB 1185 was created: To provide that missing check-and-balance of an official body of oversight for the local Sheriff's office. Mendocino County has a legal right and obligation to create, empower, and maintain a PSAB that focuses oversight solely on the Sheriff's office, regardless of our Sheriff's suggestions to keep the PSAB focussed on other matters.

The only way PSAB oversight can have any effect as a true check-and-balance to the Sheriff's office—whose office is accountable to none other than the public who elected them—IS BY THE PSAB HAVING THE POWER TO SUBPOENA INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, AND WITNESSES AS IS ALLOWED BY CA LAW AB 1185 outlined in the articles of CA LAW AB 1185 below.

(b) (1) The chair of the sheriff oversight board shall issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum in accordance with Sections 1985 to 1985.4, inclusive, of the Code of Civil Procedure whenever the board deems it necessary or important to examine the following:

(A) Any person as a witness upon any subject matter within the jurisdiction of the board.

(B) Any officer of the county in relation to the discharge of their official duties on behalf of the sheriff's department.

(C) Any books, papers, or documents in the possession of or under the control of a person or officer relating to the affairs of the sheriff's department.

(2) A subpoena shall be served in accordance with Sections 1987 and 1988 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The BOARD OF SUPS FAILED TO INCLUDE THIS POWER when they created our PSAB.

The Board of Supervisors must amend our PSAB bylaws granting the PSAC this subpoena power, as it is the only way the PSAB may have any effect in the task of holding accountable the elected office of sheriff whose only accountability is to the public itself.

The responsibilities and *full privileges* granted the PSAC in accordance with **CA LAW AB 1185** must be instated as it is the only check-and-balance for accountability that is necessary for the Sheriff's office and is deemed ineffective without this subpoena power.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this oversight and grant subpoena power to the Public Service Advisory Board.

**Sincerely,
Kyra Rice**