



COAST DEMOCRATS
P.O. Box 592
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-0592

August 2, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Agenda Item __5b_, August 3, 2021

By email: bos@mendocino.org

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On May 20, 2021, the Coast Democratic Club submitted a letter to you along with other organizations in this County requesting that the Board of Supervisors move to commence an independent and comprehensive audit of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). Our Club members reside in Supervisorial Districts 4 and 5.

In February 2021, our Club began to look at the issue of government accountability...where is taxpayer money is being spent and how productive is the outcome. We were particularly interested in the budget process at the County level. How are the decisions being made to allocate funds?

Given the amount of dollars allocated to the MCSO and associated elements of the County's law enforcement departments, including the County jail, we considered then and continue to hold that an audit should provide valuable data for decisions on budgeting and allocations of resources. Future decisions on policies regarding law enforcement in the county would be then be supported by measurable means.

The need to make all levels of government transparent and accountable has become more urgent in recent years. This audit should serve as a model for County decision making.

Today, it appears that the Sheriff is resisting any attempt by the Board to assess his departments' needs. Now he would like you to fund a lawsuit against you of his making.

We support your taking leadership in an area where there should be no conflict regarding your authority and responsibility to your constituents.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Bowers

Chair

Coast Democratic Club