

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

*Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5th floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612*

**Supervisor Richard Valle, Chair
Supervisor Scott Haggerty**

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

I. Year 7 Public Safety Realignment – continued to a future meeting.

Presenter: Neola Crosby, Reentry Coordinator, Alameda County Probation Department

[Attachment](#)

II. Consider a Request of Financial Management and Performance Audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office from Human Impact Partners, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and others

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

Kitzia Estera, Jose Bernal and John Lindsay-Poland, representing Human Impact Partners, the Ella Baker Center, Causa Justa (Just Cause) and other organizations, presented a PowerPoint presentation to request the Public Protection Committee to consider a request for an independent performance audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Performance and Fiscal Audit

The independent auditor shall provide the Board with recommendations on best practices to promote public safety for all in the County.

Scope of Audit

Evaluate Sheriff's Office revenue, expenditures, and contract practices Board of Supervisors has oversight responsibility

- California Government Code § 25303 gives the Board broad authority to "supervise the official conduct" of the Sheriff)
- Helps County respond more effectively to litigation

Describe characteristics of the jail population - demographics, circumstances (pregnancy, medical and mental health needs, pre-trial/sentencing)

Conduct an Assessment of Jail Conditions

- County has responsibility to proactively investigate and address reasons for inadequate care of persons in its custody.
- Assess long-term need for jail facilities, including consolidation and potential closure of units
- Comparison of SRJ with non-jail mental health care
- Potential to save funds and to strengthen more effective means of providing mental health care
- Anticipates impacts of bail reform on jail population
- Review the deaths of inmates who have died in custody at Santa Rita Jail over the last five years.

Supervisor Valle reported that he met with the advocates in favor of an independent audit of the Sheriff's Office on Monday, November 4, 2019 talked about the state of jails and their request for an independent audit.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, Supervisor Valle visited Santa Rita Jail and met with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Commander Madigan and SRJ staff and clinical staff regarding the conditions of jail. Supervisors Valle has committed to visiting the jail periodically to monitor the conditions.

Scott Dickey, Assistant County Counsel, reported that the Alameda County Sheriff has sole authority over the jail and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors cannot dictate policy or operations at the jail and in addition cannot use their budget authority to influence policy and operations at the jail. It would not be productive to discuss recommendations to the full Board that would interfere with the Sheriff's sole and exclusive authority.

The County is in litigation with the Rosen Bien law firm regarding the conditions of Santa Rita Jail. The County has chosen to work collaboratively with this law firm in an attempt to reach mutual resolution.

Supervisor Valle reaffirmed that the Board is ignoring concerns at Santa Rita Jail and attention will be given to issues raised. Needs more information and more time to assess the scope of the audit. In addition, the advocates are also in discussion with the law firm that is suing Alameda County. Any discussion can be used against the County in the litigation.

Supervisor Haggerty has visited Santa Rita Jail; Sheriff' has worked with the unincorporated community, work through DSAL, and has other accreditations no need, audited by several other bodies. Supervisor Haggerty does not support completing an independent audit.

Speakers

The following speakers all spoke in support of the Board of Supervisors doing an independent audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office: Sondeng Thongsy, Gerthina Harris, Victoria Riley, Amber Piatt, Zach Norris, Yolanda Huang, Jean Moses, Ashley, Lina Garcia, Reanna Reyes, Yasmin Reyes, Vanessa Reyes, Gloria Esteva, Araceli Catalan, Angelo Sandoval, Manuel LaFontaine, Bruce Schmiechen, Fredericka Binnown, Natasha Huey, Ann Harvey, Sanyika Bryant, Norma Orozco, Pete Woiwode, Yadir Sanchez, Juan Prieto, Kitzia Esteva, John Lindsay-Poland and Jose Bernal.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

Recommendation from the Public Protection Committee: The Public Protection Committee does not support moving the Request of Financial Management and Performance Audit of the Sheriff's Office forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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