

Here are the Supervisors' contact information:

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#### **EMAIL TEMPLATE:**

Dear Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_,

I am \_\_\_\_\_ (possibly list length of residency in SB, occupation, community involvement, how you've been impacted by the criminal legal system, etc.)

Given the following facts:

1. Trauma and poverty are the two largest influences on "criminal" behavior
2. Incarceration is a traumatic experience that is accompanied by socio-economic marginalization
3. SB County disproportionately incarcerates Black and Brown community members, who are already socio-economically marginalized through interconnected racist systems in our county related to housing, education, employment, healthcare, etc.

4. There is conclusive evidence that shows traditional policing methods and incarceration do **not** reduce recidivism
5. More than \$255million (68.3%) of the County's current public safety budget is invested into the supervision (Probation), prosecution (District Attorney), and policing and incarceration (Sheriff) of community members, all of which create additional trauma and reinforce cycles of poverty, thereby decreasing public safety

I urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to make the following changes this for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

1. Reduce Sheriff's Office funding by a *minimum* of \$26.7million and 165 FTE's this year in order to support a consistent decline of average daily jail population and bring their office's budget in line with or below comparable counties.

Invest the \$26.7million in:

2. Community-based organizations and initiatives led by folks who have similar identities and life experiences to those who are most impacted by the criminal legal system in order to utilize alternatives to incarceration, true community-based diversion programs that are not affiliated with law enforcement or criminal legal institutions, and more practical and effective transitional services for individuals in custody. Examples of appropriate community-based allocations include funding for:
  - Healing Justice Santa Barbara's partnership with the Healing Center at UCSB's Hosford Clinic which provides Black community members with free culturally competent and trauma informed professional mental health services.
    - Note: Changes to Sheriff practices such as being in plain clothes while on duty, as demonstrated by SBPD, are far from adequate when it comes to increasing mental health support for community members that are marginalized.
  - Local organizations such as Healing Justice Santa Barbara, El Centro, Freedom 4 Youth, CAUSE, Ethnic Studies Now!, and many others who have been doing this work for many years while severely underfunded. These organizations provide services in the fields of mental health, education, employment, leadership, housing, clothing, food access, violence prevention, immigration, environmental protection, self-esteem and efficacy, arts & culture, etc...
  - Success Stories Program which utilizes a dialogic approach to addressing the implications of patriarchy and toxic masculinity, as they repeatedly manifest in the objectification of womxn, the perceived need to show physical dominance or violence over others in order to be "more of a man", and the prioritization of money over healthy relationships. Local nonprofit Freedom 4 Youth has trained facilitators of this program.
  - Freedom to Choose which supports individuals in the development of skills related to communication and relationships, fosters emotional intelligence, and

dives into the root causes of impulsive, anger-driven, trauma-reactionary behaviors.

3. Affordable housing initiatives in order to accelerate the currently tenuous and sometimes impossible process of finding housing, which can take several years or force local residents to relocate due to cost of living. The lack of affordable and accessible housing for low-income residents disproportionately impacts Black and Brown community members, which increases the likelihood of involvement in the criminal legal system.

I would also like to support the implementation of the demands made by CLUE SB as stated below:

4. Increase funding for the Public Defender's Office to expand holistic advocacy and culturally competent staff to improve advocacy across the racial/ethnic spectrum.
5. Fund seed money to study a possible Civilian Oversight Commission to help assure transparency and accountability from the Sheriff's Office, alter the policing practices and procedures that reinforce trauma, and deter police misconduct.
  - Possible results of this include the immediate stop to the Sheriff's cooperation with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), deputy trainings on language justice best practices, and regularly required cultural competency and anti-racism trainings.
6. Reallocate more funds for the Behavioral Wellness Department to provide non-jail alternatives for mental health and addiction needs.