Coalition for a Safer SMC Statement on Sheriff Accountability

The Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County urges the Board of Supervisors to support the following priorities for a sheriff. We also support the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office (ICAC)'s call for a permanent Inspector General with subpoena power and for community engagement if the Board chooses to appoint an interim sheriff.

Public safety is for everybody. The Sheriff's Office cannot provide safety without trust in law enforcement and accountability to the community. Therefore, the Coalition believes any sheriff should commit to the following:

- A respectful work environment and good community relations.
- Accountability to the people of San Mateo County, not to the federal government.
- Honoring the county's existing commitment to keeping families together; do not cooperate with ICE unless required to by law, regulation, court decision, or judicial warrant.
- Genuine willingness to collaborate with ICAC and the Inspector General (IG) when one is appointed, as a positive element of their relationship with the people of San Mateo County.
    - Develop information sharing agreements with ICAC and the IG.
    - Cooperate on fiscal checks and balances.
    - Commit to joint problem solving.
- Eliminating unnecessary use of force.
    - Eliminate the use of TASERs.
    - Expand and support de-escalation training and strategies.
    - Support unarmed crisis response and its integration into the 911 system.
    - Do not use force against peaceful civilian protesters.
- Improving jail conditions.
    - Prevent deaths in the jail.
    - Work with the county to eliminate the use of the jail as a mental hospital and substance abuse treatment facility.
    - Help the county identify secure diversion options in the community for people in crisis.
    - Restore physical mail to incarcerated people.
    - Provide meaningful access to religious services in the jail.
    - Promote voter registration, education and voting in the jail.

June 2025