

3/8/2023 Report from SMCDCC Policing Reform Committee

The SMCDCC Sheriff Oversight Committee met March 8. Chair is Jim Lawrence, Co-Chair is Elsa Schafer. We decided to change the name to the Policing Reform Committee so we can cover a broader scope of issues. Karen approved the new name. Our meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

We will continue to support Fixin' San Mateo County and the establishment of independent civilian oversight of the county sheriff, including a civilian oversight board and an inspector general, both with subpoena power.

We will also broaden our scope to look at the following areas:

1. Most immediately, we support the efforts of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission, JJDPC, to improve the conditions of young people in the criminal justice system. To that end, this month we support the Urgency Resolution to ask the District Attorney to not prosecute children as adults. Next month we will support a resolution to make improvements in the conditions at the Youth Service Center (YSC), including health and hygiene, vocational programming, and mental health treatment. These resolutions were passed by SMC Democracy for America at its last meeting.
2. We plan to research and bring forward a resolution to the California Democratic Convention regarding police reform to include in the party platform.
3. We will work with our local state legislators and support criminal justice reform bills, including SB50 to ban pretextual stops.
4. We will look at the use of RIPA (Racial Identity and Profiling Data) and police scorecards to look at racial disparities in policing practices and their impacts around the county.