

Written Comments for  
**Regular Public Comment Section**  
- **Consent Agenda**  
- **Non Agenda Items**

## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** D Gold <dgold184@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:45 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** Clinician Led Mental Health Crisis Mobile Response

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Dear Supervisors,

I am writing concerning the importance of the County establishing a non-police response to mental health crises. Too often, a person experiencing a mental health crisis has been faced by an armed police response when friends or family members contact emergency services. In Pacifica, a SWAT response when perhaps an unarmed response may have been more appropriate, resulted in the police killing of Errol Chang.

I urge you to appropriate sufficient funds and to establish a framework where clinicians can lead mental health responses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deeg Gold  
Pacifica

## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** Bill Newell <billnewell2850@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:54 AM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** December 5, 2023, Public Comment to the Board of Supervisors Regular 9 AM Meeting

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RE: Community Oversight of Sheriff's Office

My name is Bill Newell and I live in the Board of Supervisor 4th District in Redwood City. I am a member of the Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County. A coalition represented by over 30 community and faith based organizations, and a number of city and town councils around San Mateo County.

As we honor the life and legacy of our former President of the Board of Supervisors, Don Horsley, I recall his brave leadership in November 2022, as he lead a unanimous vote decision by the Board for a proposal for Community Oversight of the Sheriff's Office that "involves an Inspector General and a board."

Currently at least three members of our County Board of Supervisors have expressed their support of an oversight model used at this time by Santa Clara County, supported by both the Board of Supervisors and their County Sheriff. The oversight Board must be impartial, knowledgeable, committed, and reflective of the diversity of San Mateo County. The Board must hold monthly public meetings, conduct community outreach including receiving concerns, complaints, and compliments from our citizens. The Board will also issue public reports as necessary.

The Inspector General will be full-time to hear and respond to citizen concerns and complaints with access to records and subpoena powers as needed, independent of the Sheriff's Office.

The County Board of Supervisors has stated they are, and will be, the final arbitrator and is accountable to the citizens for successful oversight of the Sheriff's Office.

Written Public  
Comment(s) for **Item No. 2**

## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** Bill Newell <billnewell2850@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:31 AM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** December 5, 2023 Study Session Mobile Me, violence ntal Health Emergency Response Models

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My name is Bill Newell, resident of Redwood City. I am a member of the Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County. Thank-you for offering this study session to consider mobile responses to mental health emergencies.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to implement a county-wide, 24/7 NON-ARMED mobile mental health crisis response program to ensure that our neighbors who need community support receive equal access to the care, compassion, and properly qualified support that they deserve.

We lost the life of one of our great public school teachers living in Redwood City when two officers arrived after his wife called 911 and specifically requested non-armed mental health specialists to respond at their home. Unfortunately two armed Redwood City police officers arrived, and when he approached them with a knife he was shot, and rather than wounded, was

killed.

When specialized, unarmed, crisis response teams are the default first responders to behavioral health emergencies, we reduce the risk of police use of force, violence against people with disabilities, and unnecessary arrests, or loss of life. 911 Dispatch needs to be modernized to predictably match the caller with an appropriate emergency response, including a non-armed crisis response.

The San Mateo County Behavioral Health Commission has issued a report with the recommendation that a non-armed mental health crisis response program should include a team of an EMT and either a peer support specialist or a licensed mental health clinician.

With gratitude for your consideration of my comments

Bill Newell  
Redwood City

## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** torybecker <torybecker@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:51 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** BoS meeting to study Clinician-led Mental Health Crisis Mobile Response Programs, 12/5/23 at 1pm

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Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to support the immediate adoption of a Clinician led Mental health Crisis Mobile team. I think back over the last ten years I have lived in Pacifica and I remember the completely unnecessary deaths of people suffering mental health crises at the hand of the police. Two such examples are 1. 2014 Pacifica, Errol Chang was killed by the police when his family called 911 for help during a mental health crisis. 2. 2018 Millbrae, Chinedu Okobi was tased to death by police after he jaywalked. Both of these police murders might well have been prevented if mental health professionals had intervened not armed police. It is long overdue to take the role of mental health crisis intervention out of the untrained armed police department.

Thank you

Victoria Becker

Pacifica CA