

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

From: [christian riblet](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Lowering speed limits near schools in SM County
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 11:49:19 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Board Members,

I was pleased to learn that you are considering a resolution to study lowering speed limits near schools in unincorporated San Mateo County. As a parent of students at Woodside High School, which borders a piece of unincorporated SM County, I strongly support this idea. I've seen limited enforcement of current speed limits across Alameda De Las Pulgas by SM County sheriffs, and would welcome enhanced safety measures for students and other pedestrians and bicyclists. Please pursue this idea!

Thank you for your time,
Christian Riblet
Redwood City

Written Public Comment(s)
for **Item No. 10**

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Peter Morris
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:37 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10, Update by the Private Defender Panel

Dear Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing this letter in support of the incredible work the Private Defender Panel provides on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens in San Mateo County. Far too often our court and jail system become the safety net for individuals struggling with complex mental health, complex medical health, severe substance use as well as socioeconomic issues that prevent them from hiring the same legal counsel afforded to those with means in our county.

Over the past three years the Private Defender Panel has expanded their ability to offer meaningful social work, follow up care, and client advocacy as part of the already stellar legal defense provided to clients charged with crimes that are a result of an untreated psychiatric condition or other psychosocial issue. As a result of the ongoing collaboration between the Private Defender Panel and Correctional Health Services at both Maple and Maguire Correctional Facility individuals spend less time in custody, are offered meaningful alternatives to jail, and prevent ongoing costs to the county without extensive court appearances and long jail stays. All of this provided with dignity and the professional level of service every citizen deserves not simply those who can afford it.

Sincerely,

Peter Morris, LCSW
Supervising Mental Health Clinician
San Mateo County Health
Correctional Health Service
Forensic Mental Health Division
300 Bradford Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650)-363-7872
pmorris@smcgov.org

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and protected information. Any unauthorized review; use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Mandana Massih <mandana_m333@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:35 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda item 10

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello

I wanted to thank the San Mateo Public Defender's program for helping me vacate my convictions. For so many years I had been given wrong advice and information.

Mrs. Carla Gomez gave me the guidance to reach out to John Halley at the San Mateo Public Defender's Office.

Mr. Halley and his staff were kind, respectful, and above all knowledgeable. They helped me vacate my convictions and therefore allowing for the possibility of getting my status back from immigration.

I am forever grateful to them for helping people like me.

Sincerely
Mandana M.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: David Avila <davidavilalaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:34 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Ron Rayes
Subject: Public Comment re: Agenda Item 10 ("Update by the Private Defender Panel")

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

[PLEASE READ THE BELOW STATEMENT, WHICH IS UNDER 300 WORDS IN LENGTH, DURING AGENDA ITEM 10, ON 5/7/24]

Dear Board Members,

I am a juvenile defense lawyer and an active member of the Private Defender Panel's Juvenile Division. I started my legal career at the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office, a traditional indigent criminal defense organization and one of the best in the country. For the past 23 years, I have been in private practice and an active PDP member. During this time, I've seen every caliber of lawyer and I can say, unequivocally, that the highly-skilled juvenile specialists with whom I practice on the PDP Juvenile Panel are among the finest in California, consistently achieving outstanding results for our young clients.

PDP Chief Lisa Maguire and Juvenile Panel Supervisor Ron Rayes have instituted an array of cutting-edge programs that even the most highly-regarded Public Defender's Offices do not yet offer. And, they do this within a budget that comprises a fraction of the cost of a traditional public defender program. These include:

1. Robust pre-filing representation, including creation of social histories and safety plans within 48 hours of a minor's arrest. This makes an enormous difference at the critical "detention hearing" when a judge determines whether a minor is released to his/her family or kept in juvenile hall.
2. Post-conviction representation (e.g., record sealing, case dismissals) for all minors.
3. Regular, intensive and wide-ranging legal training for juvenile lawyers, all of whom have already met strict legal requirements for practice in juvenile court.

These are just several examples of why the PDP Juvenile Panel has earned the respect of the criminal defense community throughout the state and how it continues to push the boundaries of what is possible when it comes to advocating for our system-involved youth to ensure they get on the right track as safe, productive and happy members of our community.

Thank you.

--

David L. Avila, Esq.
303 Twin Dolphin Dr., Ste. 600
Redwood City, CA 94065
(650) 216-9580 (office)
(408) 313-1789 (cell)
www.davidavilalaw.com

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This transmittal contains PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-CLIENT information intended only for the use of the addressee. If you are not the designated recipient, or an employee or agent authorized to deliver such transmittals to the designated recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copying or publication of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmittal in error, please call the above telephone number immediately.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Carla Vanessa Gomez <carlag@smcba.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:31 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10, Update by the Private Defender Panel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Carla Gomez, and I am the new crim-immigration expert recently hired by the PDP. Prior to joining the PDP in mid-February, I served as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), where I focused on the intersection of criminal and immigration law, specializing in post-conviction relief for noncitizens. At the ILRC, I led weekly meetings with Padilla attorneys across public defender offices in California. I am well-acquainted with the volume of post-conviction relief motions filed by public defender offices, and I am particularly impressed by the statistics of San Mateo PDP regarding post-conviction relief.

Allow me to share the statistics from July 1, 2024, through the end of April:

PC 1172 (resentencing motions): 17 cases
PC 1473.7 (vacatur for noncitizens): 66 cases
PC 3051 (Franklin/YOP): 14 cases
Sex offender relief: 10 cases
Expungements: 519 cases

Carla V. Gomez
Head of Crim-Immigration Defense
Private Defender Program
San Mateo County Bar Association
333 Bradford St., Ste. 200
Redwood City, CA 94063
Ph: (650) 298-4022



This communication constitutes an electronic communication within the meaning of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510, and its disclosure is strictly limited to the recipient intended by the sender of this message. This communication may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient and receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient does not constitute a loss of the confidential or privileged nature of the communication. Any review or distribution by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender by return electronic mail and delete all copies of this communication.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: John Au <dungnps898@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 2:08 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10, Update by The Private Defender Panel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello my name is John Au and I just wanted share my experience with Mr.Mark Campri and Donna Macintyre. They were very very supportive in my case and spent many hours doing so. My case went for over year during that time they worked hard because they actually had faith in me because I basically got tired of being tired and living the that lifestyle was not for me anymore. But it was great to have people that have faith in you and support you like that and that can see that you're trying your best to change your life. I'm very grateful to have another chance in life. Thank you Mr.Campri and Donna Macintyre!!!

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: opals247 <opals247@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 1:40 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Private Defender Program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

My name is Robb Fox. I have had the good fortune to meet several of the attorneys from the program as well as getting to know Donna McIntire who was the investigator on my son Kyle's cases. During such a stressful time, their help and guidance made the process much more palatable. Francoise, Andy, Jason and a couple more were so helpful and so appreciated by Kyle and our family.

We are very grateful. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Robb Fox
6508675735

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Keila Kereti <keilakereti@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 1:36 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Update On The Private Defender Panel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello,

Before meeting Mr.Sharma, I gave up on all hopes of my future and career paths. I wasn't sure if I wanted to pursue my career in the Military. I still hung around the same crowd, same group of people that I was involved with.

After meeting Mr.Sharma, All my hopes came back. I wanted to continuing to pursue the Military still. I finally had let go of my old friends, old crowd, my old habits - not only did I do that but I also became a Mother throughout the process of meeting Mr.Sharma. I'm very happy and is very satisfied with the services he provided for me and my future.

Thank you,

Keila Kereti

From: [Brook Wigley](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#); ssharmalawgroup@gmail.com
Subject: Review
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 4:07:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Thanks to Mr. Sharma my cases were dealt with by someone who knew the law and seemed very concerned with my well being when I showed up for court. He did everything in his power to help get my cases handled correctly and I was very pleased with the outcome he was able to get for me. Greatly appreciated having him back on my legal issues.

Thanks again

Kevin wigley
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jose Rodriguez](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Private Defender Letter
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 4:30:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To whom it may concern

My name is Jose Rodriguez. I'm writing this letter letting you know about my experience and service I had with Mr Justin Goodwin and Alejandra Vera private investigator. Mr Goodwin was very professional about his work and always very honest with my case. He did everything to solve my case along with Miss Vera. They're always on top of everything that needed to be done to solve my case. I was very pleased with the amazing work they did as a very strong team. Always on time for every court date with had. I want to thank Justin Goodwin and Alejandra Vera for all the hard work.

Thank you

Jose Rodriguez
925-915-0301
Jrodriguez7217@yahoo.com

Date: 07 May 2024

To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Agenda Item 10, Update by the Private Defender Panel

Dear Members of the Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. The purpose of my letter is to briefly describe my experience with the Private Defender Program over the past few years. In the summer of 2021, I reached out to the San Mateo County Military Diversion Court to learn more about the program and decide if a recent misdemeanor drug-possession charge would be best handled through this program or if I would be better off attending standard criminal court. It was difficult to compare my two options as I had never been put in a situation like this before, so I sent an email to Melissa McKowan, my assigned counsel through the Private Defender Program, expressing my hesitation to move forward. Later that evening, I received a reply from Ms. McKowan, and I was shocked to see how long of a letter she had written me. She described, in painstaking detail, all of the benefits of joining the Diversion Program, and thoughtfully answered every single question I posed in my initial email. Her letter quickly eased my concerns and convinced me that the Military Diversion Program was indeed the better of the two options. My decision wasn't solely based on the content of her reply; rather, it was evident how much she cared for me, someone she had yet to meet, by taking the time out of her extremely busy day to write such a thoughtful and in-depth response. Something told me that if I joined this program, I would continue to receive the same level of support - and I was right. From that point forward, Ms. McKowan consistently took the time to keep me informed of my case and quickly responded to my questions, both day and night. Her decades of experience and astute knowledge of the law comforted me in knowing that I would be extremely hard pressed to find better counsel on my own, anywhere. Although she was responsible for representing numerous veterans at any given time, I can truthfully say that I always felt like a priority. I felt cared for, and that meant the world to me during that time of my life. And it seems I wasn't the only one - upon meeting some of the other veterans in the program, I heard them express very similar sentiments.

I am extremely grateful and blessed to have had Ms. McKowan by my side during my time in the Military Diversion Program. Although I graduated from the program last year, I still attend the monthly sessions serving as a mentor for other veterans. And I still see how tirelessly Ms. McKowan works to defend and represent each of her clients. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to work with the Private Defender Program. I hope that others who find themselves in my shoes are just as lucky as I was, and that the Private Defender Program remains an integral part of our community for many years to come.

Warmly,
John

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Kaitlin Tavarez <kaitlin.tavarez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 5:03 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Update on the Private Defender Panel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello,

The Private Defender Program works extremely well. It is just that defenders serve both private clients, and the community. They are calm, measured, and thorough in their help with clients. Hardworking people like Shaneil Sharma work long outside their hours to answer any and every question of clients, spending long hours on the phone and on the weekends to accommodate everyone, no matter how long each takes or how many people and cases there are. He is encouraging, and always positive - always! He believes in his clients, and works hard to do what's best for them.

KT

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Ron Tyler <rontyler@law.stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 3:34 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Agenda Item 10, Update by the Private Defender Panel
Attachments: PDP Letter to Board of Supervisors.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the attached letter in support of the Private Defender Program, regarding Agenda Item 10 on the May 7, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you,

Professor Ron Tyler

Ronald Tyler
Professor of Law
Director, Criminal Defense Clinic
pronouns: he/him/his ([why I share my pronouns](#))

Stanford Law School
559 Nathan Abbott Way
Stanford, CA 94305

phone: (650) 724-6344
fax: (650) 723-4426

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. It is legally privileged. The information it contains is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately by telephone at (650) 724-1900 and by return e-mail, and delete all copies of the message from your computer.