

Written Public Comments
for **Item No. 9**

California State Senate

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September 28, 2021

Hon. David Canepa, Board President
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Subject: Adopt Resolution to Endorse the Regional Action Plan

Dear President Canepa and Members of the Board:

I am pleased to support All Home's Regional Action Plan (RAP) to reduce unsheltered homelessness and request that San Mateo County also endorse this critical effort.

Our community is a better place when everyone has a safe place to live. Unfortunately, according to our most recent point in time count, more than 1,500 of our neighbors in San Mateo County are experiencing homelessness and thousands more are at risk of becoming homeless due to being severely burdened by rent.

All Home has set an ambitious goal with this plan - reduce homelessness by 75% in 3 years. To achieve this goal, the RAP recommends using a "1-2-4 Framework" with simultaneous, proportional, development of interim housing, permanent/supportive housing and homelessness prevention. Implementing this approach can help reduce the numbers of those experiencing homelessness and save many others from falling into those circumstances in the first place.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important project. I look forward to supporting these efforts in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Josh Becker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Josh' and last name 'Becker' clearly legible.

Josh Becker
State Senator, 13th District

Cc: Irving Torres, All Home

October 4, 2021

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Subject: Adopt Resolution to Endorse the Regional Action Plan

Dear President Canepa and Honorable Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors:

MidPen Housing writes to ask for your support in endorsing All Home's Regional Action Plan (RAP) to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% by 2024.

MidPen Housing is headquartered in Foster City and is one of the nation's leading nonprofit developers, owners and managers of high-quality affordable housing and onsite resident services. Since MidPen was founded in 1970, we have developed over 120 communities and 8,000 homes for low-income families, seniors, including homeless families and individuals and those with supportive housing needs throughout Northern California.

Our whole community does better when everyone has a safe, decent place to live—it's time we use our resources more strategically to bring our neighbors indoors and make homelessness a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. In 2019, according to the HUD Point in Time Count, 1,512 people experience homelessness in San Mateo County. The California Housing Partnership Affordable Housing Needs Report 2021 estimates that 72% of extremely low-income households in San Mateo County spend more than half of their income on housing costs. As a result, these households are at extreme risk of becoming homeless. Although no formal Point in Time Count has been made since 2019, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation.

MidPen Housing helped develop the RAP as a member of the Regional Impact Council (RIC), a group of more than 85 cross-sector leaders from around the region, many from San Mateo County. I serve on the Steering Committee along with Ariane Hogan at Genentech, Redwood City Councilmember Diana Reddy, Rosanne Foust of SAMCEDA, and President Canepa. There is also a Technical Committee that Aubrey Merriman of LifeMoves, Ken Cole of the County HSA, Nevada Merriman, MidPen's Policy Director, and many other community stakeholders have shaped and supported.

The RAP recommends using a "1-2-4 Framework" to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% with simultaneous investments in interim housing, permanent/supportive housing and homelessness prevention. Each county can determine exactly how best to align their services and priorities with the RAP, and All Home and the RIC stand ready to support those efforts.

The RIC's ongoing work is designed to advance system-level changes to address the homelessness crisis by getting at the root causes: poverty, housing insecurity, and racial inequity.



Building Communities. Changing Lives.

We urge the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to endorse the Regional Action Plan and follow its recommendations to make transformational improvements in our county and reduce homelessness once and for all.

We thank you for your dedicated service to San Mateo County. We stand ready to work with the county in achieving the goals set forth by the RAP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew O. Franklin".

Matthew O. Franklin
President & CEO, MidPen Housing Corporation

cc:
Nevada V. Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing

Written Public Comments
for **Item No. 14**

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4013



October 4, 2021

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: October 5th Agenda, Item 14 (Approval of a committee to examine Juvenile Hall youth facilities)

Dear Supervisors:

I write today in favor of establishing a committee to examine youth facilities at Juvenile Hall in order to create a more receptive environment at the Youth Services Center.

San Mateo County has the unique opportunity to develop a plan that will support young people in new and innovative ways, integrate restorative justice and lived experience in to the county's juvenile justice program through the establishment of this committee.

This work will parallel what is occurring on a state level, and has the ability to change the lives of San Mateo County's at-risk youth for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josh Becker
Senator, 13th Senate District

Cc: Paul Bocanegra



CITY OF SAN MATEO
OFFICE COUNCIL MEMBER PAPAN

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October 4, 2021

Honorable San Mateo County Supervisors
County of San Mateo
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE YOUTH FACILITIES
AT JUVENILE HALL AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MORE RECEPTIVE ENVIRONMENT AT THE
YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Dear San Mateo County Supervisors,

Thank you for your previous efforts at juvenile offender reform and for your continued energies towards this important issue.

I write to express **strong support for the above Resolution** to alter the institutional nature of the current youth detention facility. The Resolution and potential changes therefrom represent dedication to an environment that concentrates on the rehabilitation of youth offenders.

Our kids are our tomorrow and every effort toward the rehabilitation of detained juveniles means a better future for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,

Diane Papan
San Mateo City Councilmember

From: [Rick Bonilla](#)
To: [Sukhmani Purewal](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda item 14, BOS 10/5/21
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:14:04 PM

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you very much for hearing this item today and listening to my comments. I feel privileged to know and feel comfortable in speaking with all of you. I greatly appreciate the work San Mateo County does for those who are detained or incarcerated within our jurisdiction.

I write today to directly address your agenda item 14 which calls for appointing a committee to study possible changes in the way our young people are housed and cared for while in the custody of San Mateo County. For a long time I have felt that there is room for improvement which I believe will provide better outcomes for our young people as they move into the future of their lives. I care very deeply about our younger generation who are coming into a very harsh world. There are currently so many challenges and such a great level of inequity that make it very difficult for people who come from disadvantaged or dysfunctional backgrounds to be able to move forward in a healthy way and enjoy their lives.

I strongly support the actions recommended and I urge you to please support the resolution so that we may move forward with all of our children in a more inclusive and supportive manner.

Respectfully,

Rick Bonilla
Deputy Mayor, City of San Mateo

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: public comment for BoS meeting 10/5/21, agenda item 14
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 11:05:03 AM

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To the Board of Supervisors:

I strongly urge you to support the resolution in agenda item 14 for establishing a committee to examine youth facilities at Juvenile Hall and make recommendations for a more receptive environment at the Youth Services Center. Providing an environment focused on rehabilitation and restoration, rather than further traumatizing youth in the criminal justice system, is key to reducing recidivism, reaching better outcomes for individual youth, and improving public safety for our entire community.

Additionally, I want to recognize the important work done on this resolution and the plans for improving our county's treatment of youth, by Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissioner Paul Bocanegra. Mr. Bocanegra's deep commitment and keen insights on creating a healthier approach for youth in such facilities are invaluable and would be an immense asset on the new committee.

Thank you,
Clara Jaeckel
Redwood City

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #14
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 12:15:35 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 the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors;

My name is Chris Rasmussen, and I am a Commissioner on the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission, Chair of the Children & Youth Committee, and a family member of someone who has experienced mental health issues and the juvenile justice system.

Every year, youth cycle in and out of the juvenile justice system and are held in the juvenile detention center. Many of these youth have lives that have been marred by poverty, violence, substance misuse, academic disadvantage, & delinquent behavior. Further, we know now that most of these youth suffer from a mental disorder, with a small percent experiencing conditions so severe that their ability to function is significantly impaired. Frequently, a youth's disruptive behavior is the result of a symptom of a mental illness that has gone undetected and untreated. For some youth, contact with the juvenile justice system is often the first and only chance to get help.

All too frequently, the opportunity to intervene early is wasted, and the youth end up in a system that is ill-equipped to help them, further traumatizing the youth and leaving the system overburdened. This crisis is real, and the need to respond is more pressing than ever.

I urge you to support the resolution in agenda item #14 for establishing a committee to modify institutional settings and examine the services at YSC for a more supportive environment.

I further urge you to include, on this committee, BHRS, a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission, or a Lived Experience representative, to address the mental health needs of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Respectfully,

Chris Rasmussen

October 5, 2021

Dear Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in regard to Item 14 on the October 5, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda, the resolution titled "RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE YOUTH FACILITIES AT JUVENILE HALL AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MORE RECEPTIVE ENVIRONMENT AT THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER."

The Resolution reminds us that:

- Youth in the juvenile justice system have experienced disproportionate amounts of childhood trauma. It stands to reason that more trauma (time in juvenile jail) piled upon the prior trauma just increases the cumulative trauma.
- Mental health services are underfunded, and for inexplicable reasons it is much easier to obtain tax payer support for more jails than it is to fund the mental health services for incarcerated youth needed to help prevent recidivism.
- Living with metal furniture, walking concrete floors, and being locked in a cage when sleeping does not a restorative environment make. Is there an expectation that these young people will become more productive residents of the County in an environment such as this? Is there an expectation that they will become excellent students in reading and comprehension skills, math, social studies, history and science? You know the answers to these questions are probabilistically in the negative.

It is self-evident that the County is in need of a Committee whose purpose is to create plans to modify the current institutional setting at the Youth Services Center to make it a more supportive environment. And that some of the Committee members have the lived experience of being incarcerated in such facilities. Therefore, I ask that you support the Resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,
Pat Willard
San Mateo County Resident and Voter for over 20 years



Via Electronic Mail Only

October 4, 2021

Re: Agenda item 14:

ACLU-North Peninsula Chapter Supports the Resolution Directing the County to Establish a Committee to Examine Youth Facilities at Juvenile Hall and Make Recommendations for a More Receptive Environment at the Youth Services Center

Dear San Mateo County Supervisors,

On behalf of the ACLU-North Peninsula Chapter (ACLU-NP), I am writing to express our strong support for the resolution to establish a committee to examine the San Mateo County Youth Services Center (YSC) and make recommendations for a more rehabilitative environment.

The ACLU-NP is an all-volunteer group of community members that seeks to protect and advance the civil liberties of all residents, employees, and students in San Mateo County. We represent more than 4,000 people in San Mateo County.

If juvenile halls like YSC will not be abolished, our county should focus our resources less on incarceration and more on rehabilitation and preparing the youth to return to our community. Youth should be able to live in an environment that is designed to foster their return to society, not to dehumanize them. This committee should have the opportunity to examine, plan, and restructure the YSC to best serve youth who need support services to help them recover from substance abuse, mental illness, and trauma. We are heartened to see a requirement of two members of the community on this panel. We hope that the community members selected for this committee will have lived experience with the juvenile justice system.

We ask you to support not only the creation of such a committee, but also such a committee's future efforts to modify YSC to best support our community's children.

Sincerely,

Sara Matlin
Co-chair
ACLU-North Peninsula Chapter

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: support for Item 14 on October 5 Board agenda to establish a committee to examine youth facilities at Juvenile Hall
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:17:04 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.

Honorable Bard of Supervisors:

I am writing in strong support of Item 14 on tomorrow's Board agenda, the resolution directing that the County establish a committee to examine youth facilities at Juvenile Hall and make recommendations for a more receptive environment at the Youth Services Center.

The young people in the juvenile system are disproportionately youth of color, and often have experienced trauma and experience mental health or behavioral issues. They are our responsibility. We owe it to them to provide a safe and supportive environment and help them to grow into the adults that they want to be and can be,

For more than 10 years I led a nonprofit that took foster children and young people from juvenile halls in Merced and San Benito Counties to experience Yosemite and Pinnacles National Parks, and I have seen firsthand the healing impact of positive, nurturing experiences with adults for these young men and women who, often for the first time, experienced a supportive adult relationship outside the system. Meaningful change is possible, with a commitment from adults who are running the system.

Thank you to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission for this resolution to reimagine the system, and to Board Chair Canepa and to Supervisor Horsley for bringing this forward to the Board.

Nancy

[Nancy Goodban, PhD](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: support for Item 14 on October 5 Board agenda
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:45:46 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.

Dear Board of Supervisors;

I am in support of Item 14 on Oct 5'ths agenda. This resolution could make a huge difference in the lives of many young people. This resolution, directing the County to create a committee to examine Juvenile Hall facilities and make recommendations on improvements, is incredibly important.

I am a licensed psychotherapist who works with youth and families and have seen first hand the devastating consequences of trauma on our youth. The youth of the juvenile system have multiple traumas. They are most often children of color and have experienced significant loss and lack of support. Many have experienced abuse and violence. It is SO important that we support these youth as we would want our own children to be supported. They need and deserve the very best in facilities and mental, emotional and physical health resources. Please stand up for our children and vote in favor of Item 14.

Sincerely,
Alison Little,
LMFT