

Written Comments for
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- **Consent Agenda**
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COASTSIDE FAMILIES
TAKING ACTION

June 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

[Coastside Families Taking Action](#) (“CFTA”), a group of over 220 families devoted to making the San Mateo Coast a welcoming, supportive, active, and empowering place for all children and families, is writing in support of the draft ordinance proposed by [Fixin’ San Mateo County](https://fixinsmc.org) (<https://fixinsmc.org>) and requesting that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors use its legislative authority under Ca. Gov. Code 25303.7 to create a civilian oversight board and establish an office of inspector general for the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

CFTA, along with Fixin’ San Mateo County, believes independent and effective civilian oversight is common sense, good government, and fiscally responsible. Civilian oversight helps protect civil rights, support effective policing, ensure transparency and greater accountability, and strengthen relationships between the community and the Sheriff’s Office.

If San Mateo County creates a civilian oversight board and establishes an office of inspector general, it will join 220 cities and counties nationwide (twenty-five of which are in California) with civilian oversight of policing. This is a growing movement and we hope San Mateo County listens to its community and takes this important action to be on the right side of history and a leader in the movement to build a greater connection between community members and the Sheriff’s department. Now is the opportunity to heal, rebuild trust and be an example of good government.

As our elected officials, we are hopeful you will consider Fixin’ San Mateo County’s ordinance and use your legal authority to enact a civilian oversight board and establish an office of inspector general.

Sincerely,

Coastside Families Taking Action

6/13/22

Re: My Opposition to a Civilian Oversight Board of the San Mateo County Sheriffs

To: The Honorable Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors:

Don Horsley, President
Dave Pine, Vice President
Carole Groom, Member
Warren Slocum, Member
Dave Canepa, Member

I am writing to express my opposition to a Civilian Oversight Board of the SMC Sheriff's Office. The proposal presented to the Board of Supervisors on 5/17/22 by Fixin-San Mateo County (SMC) is dangerous and unneeded. I perceive Fix-in SMC as a radical activist group.

I have lived in San Mateo County for five decades. My interaction with all law enforcement has always been courteous and professional.

For those of you not familiar with the issue of the Sheriff's Office and Law Enforcement on the coast, I provide this elucidation.

We, on the coast, have gone through months of Half Moon Bay (HMB) City Council meetings in which they have tried to demoralize, defund, and re-imagine the Sheriff's Office. The Jimenez-Rarback Report was presented to the City Council approximately May 28, 2021. This was an attempt to install a second Police Chief who would report to the City Council and would place armed and unarmed Sheriffs in that same line of authority. What a mess! Who would be the Deputy's Boss? The Redwood City Sheriff Bolanos or the Half Moon Bay City Council?

This was also an attempt to decriminalize and void many safety ordinances. This included requirements for two front headlights, requirements for two vehicle rear lights, requirements for a driver's license, requirements for vehicle registration, etc. This was an outrageous proposal, described as pre-textual stops.

Based on my reading of local news, I have observed that many people pulled over for these violations have one, if not many, misdemeanor and felony warrants for their arrest. Yes, they should be pulled over, cited, and maybe referred to the jail system for further processing.

We need a country, a community, and a county, in which all laws are enforced. In response to the Jimenez-Rarback Report (also co-authored by David C. Eblovi), the Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Bolanos, instituted many progressive improvements in the area of mental health and a de-escalation approach to law enforcement.

After many discussions and the Jimenez-Rarback Report, the HMB City Council decided it would be a great idea to survey the City to see what the residents thought of the Sheriff's Office. It was not just any survey; it was a "culturally sensitive" survey. They wanted and needed to target the right participants for the survey.

The City Council identified and hand-picked the survey company. They had laborious City Council Zoom meetings, in which the City Council in many instances directed the exact questions to be included and the exact wording to be used. This was going to be the definitive survey of all surveys! Someone like myself would not be included in this survey for two reasons: (1) I do not live within the HMB City limits. (2) I would not qualify as one of the "culturally sensitive" participants that they were trying to capture.

Well, the survey results came back. It was remarkably favorable to the Sheriff's Office and Law Enforcement. Here is a sampling of some of the responses:

Ninety-two (92) percent of the Spanish-speaking residents agreed that the Sheriffs were responsive to their concerns.

Ninety-six (96) percent of the Spanish-speaking residents felt the deputies were friendly and approachable.

Eighty-four (84) percent of the community stated they trust the San Mateo County Sheriffs.

For the statement, "I trust the San Mateo County Sheriff Deputies that serve Half Moon Bay," one percent (100%) of the Spanish-speaking respondents agreed.

To partially conclude on this topic of this Survey, the headline from the [San Mateo Daily Journal](#) dated 3/26/22 says it all: "Half Moon Bay Officials Discount Their Law Enforcement Survey Results." As a citizen, who cares about my community, this is extremely disheartening and discouraging.

There is no need for a Civilian Oversight Board or an Inspector General's Office. The radicals and extremists living on the Coastside or in Half Moon Bay cannot set the agenda for policing

on the coast. Outside and dangerous forces, such as the ACLU, cannot and should not set the agenda for policing in San Mateo County.

Also, Coastside Families Take Action (CFTA) is an organized group which has paid activists who attend many Zoom city council meetings to further their agenda. It is one thing for a group of illegal aliens to solicit some assistance; it is another thing for them to set the policy for my safety and Sheriff's Office. They do not represent me. If they are illegal and commit crimes, they must be held accountable.

The role of government is citizenry safety – not political pandering. Despite Mr. Harvey Rarback's [HMB City Council] and others' failed attempts to strip the Sheriff's Office of their effectiveness, you must not participate in this folly. The last I heard was that Mr. Rarback is suggesting the agendizing of this Fixin-San Mateo County Police Oversight Ordinance for HMB. This was mentioned by him even though he has full knowledge of what has taken place with respect to the Sheriffs over the last year.

Creating a Citizens Oversight Board and Inspector General's Office creates more bureaucracy, more paperwork and more statistical data-keeping and analysis with less effort placed on fighting crime and gangs in the streets. The Sheriffs need to be out on the streets, not creating and shuffling paperwork to keep the bureaucrats happy!

The focus needs to be on who is doing the crime...not on their nationality or ethnicity, not on their color. If you commit a crime, you must be held accountable.

I have many more thoughts on why I am opposed a Civilian Oversight Board, but for now, I will close this email.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.