

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

From: [Alan Perez](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Agenda #94
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 3:54:41 PM

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I don't think Old Town of South San Francisco is the right place for this facility.

- SSF resident

From: [Daniel Perez](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Cc: [Dave Pine](#); [Randy Torrijos](#); [eddie.flores@ssf.net](#); [flor.nicolas@ssf.net](#)
Subject: July 13 meeting, Item 94 & 95 - Chronic Issues (Shelter on Airport Blvd, SSF)
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 3:45:22 PM

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Good afternoon Board President Pine and Supervisors Corzo, Mueller, Slocum and Canepa, Mayor Nicolas and Council member Flores:

I urge President Pine and Supervisors to reconsider any further negotiations with hotel at Pine & Airport and others on Airport Boulevard, near residential areas in South San Francisco. The Pine/Airport hotel is in a residential area, near many families with young children and in the Old Town area, which has historical value that needs attention. We have had very little resources and programs offered over many generations and unreasonable for our community to take on a huge risk with the dangers this center would bring. It was very difficult raising children with little resources in Old Town and the dangers we lived through on a daily basis.

When my children were young, I do not remember how many times I had to run out of my house to ask why a child was being detained for no apparent reason, just to have their picture taken and do not wish for a repeat of what we and so many other families lived through. Our children desperately need resources for a productive life THEN and NOW and should have never unfairly taken murdered child victims to quiet a community a few years back. The fact remains that we still do NOT have programs for our children and seniors and the condition of our ONLY playground on Cypress/Pine is UNACCEPTABLE for any community.

We respectfully request funds for remodel of our Cypress playground and investing in our children & seniors. We see a lot of agenda items for Daly City. When my children were young, my wife would drive them to East Palo Alto for community clean up events and Sheriff programs. We need those programs here too.

I understand there may be a need for a permanent shelter; however, a center of such sort should be placed near hospitals and urgent care facilities to deal with chronic substance abuse, mental illness etc that are more than likely a huge factor in chronic homelessness, as we witness in San Francisco on a daily basis. Our Old Town immigrant community cannot sit to inherit a County-wide chronic issue at the expense of children.

WE NEED FORWARD MOVING ADVANCEMENTS, IMPROVEMENTS, and EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, BEFORE UNFAIRLY & DISCRIMINATORILY INHERITING COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES THAT POSE SERIOUS DANGERS TO CHILDREN AND OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Please invest in forward moving improvements & investments, instead of imposing a community with even MORE background steps, especially with a center that poses greater risks and to a community who has NOT had a fair chance in moving forward nor upwards.

Respectfully,

- Daniel Perez

From: [Luz Jimenez](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Cc: eddie.flores@ssf.net; ssfracialsocial-equity@ssf.net
Subject: Item 94 & 95, June 13 meeting
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:07:55 AM

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Honorable Board President Dave Pine and Board Supervisors,

Good morning.

Please reconsider negotiations with hotel at Pine and Airport in South San Francisco for conversion into a shelter for chronic substance abuse and chronic homelessness. This poses a great risk for children and our community. It is absolutely NOT an appropriate location to place a shelter of this sort in a neighborhood that has families with many children in the surrounding area. I am most certain this area of SSF has the most children compared to other other neighborhoods. We have already been exposed to individuals facing mental health issues on Grand Avenue and my own grandchildren were left traumatized at what they saw!!!

Old Town cannot afford to unfairly inherit an all-County issue at an inappropriate location, where the concentration should INSTEAD be on focusing on serving the immigrant community where we have been IGNORED for generations, without the same opportunities as the rest of South San Francisco and other County cities.

I see many programs on the Agenda for Daly City and East Palo Alto, and NONE for Northern San Mateo County.

Please focus on serving residents in a positive way to help with our daily barriers and challenges for a better life and advancement. It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to continue to view our immigrant community in Old Town as not worthy and undeserving of funds for a better life. WE, our CHILDREN and SENIORS COUNT TOO!

Shelter of this sort is more appropriate in area AWAY from a residential area and especially NOT in an area near children. A disadvantaged and vulnerable community requires focus on attention and care as we currently face in Old Town, SSF, which is already facing a lack of resources and unkept streets and unacceptable park conditions. Shelter would only compound issues, including race and social equality, we already face and be a great RISK to our community who is discriminately targeted with inheritance of a County-wide issue.

Atentamente, Luz Jimenez
Translated with assistance

From: [Clara Jaeckel](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#); [Dave Pine](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [David Canepa](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Ray Mueller](#)
Subject: Comment for item not the 6/13/23 agenda: Implement JJDCPC recommendations for YSC
Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 11:57:22 PM

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To the Board of Supervisors:

I'm writing as a Redwood City resident and member of In Our Care to urge you to budget funds to implement the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission's recommendations for improvements at the Youth Services Center, based on the inspections the commission performed last year. Investing in the appropriate care for youth at the center is key for their physical and mental health and sets them up for a strong and stable reentry upon their release. This in turn benefits not only the youth themselves and their families but also public safety for the entire community of San Mateo County.

To that end, please budget funds for these recommendations for the YSC:

- Food that is healthy and tasty
- A separate area for mental health treatment that allows for true privacy and confidentiality
- Vocational training that gives youth tools to support themselves
- The multi-sensory and art therapy room that has already been planned but not completed
- Inpatient residential substance abuse treatment as a dedicated program
- Increased Probation staffing to support the use of the multi-sensory and art therapy room and vocational training
- Ethnically appropriate health and hygiene products including soap and shampoo that do not irritate youths' skin
- Shoes that fit properly and do not cause foot problems

Additionally, we want to encourage using the resources of Camp Kemp for the boys as well as the girls. Camp Kemp is a much more rehabilitative environment that all youth could benefit from, and to this point has been underutilized.

Thank you for working to ensure the youth in the county's care receive the appropriate resources for long-term success.

Clara Jaeckel

From: [Wesley Liu](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Youth Services Center (Item Not on Agenda)
Date: Sunday, June 11, 2023 9:24:08 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.

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you consider the following items recommended by the JJDP in their annual inspection report for the Youth Services Center as you pass your budget for this upcoming Fiscal Year.

I am also writing to express my thanks and gratitude to *In Our Care*, a local organization formed to advocate for changes to the Youth Services Center.

In my juvenile justice work, I believe that while our Youth Services Center is strides ahead of the average juvenile detention facility, there is still room for improvement: improvement in the in-house programming, improvement in the physical conditions of youth, but most of all, improvement in the treatment of our justice-involved young people. You will discover upon visiting the YSC, that there are many common sense improvements that could be made.

Budget Priorities:

Tasty and healthy food at the YSC. Currently the youth get reheated day old food from the county jail.

A separate area for mental health treatment at YSC with privacy and confidentiality. Currently any mental health is in an open area where everyone can see what is going on, not conducive to real rehabilitative therapy.

Vocational training at YSC. Currently this is almost non-existent and I think you would agree, critical for rehabilitation for these youth to re-enter society

Completion of the multi-sensory and art therapy room. A well publicized and expensive project that seems indefinitely stalled and incomplete.

In-patient residential substance abuse treatment for youth in our county. Any current substance abuse is not a dedicated program but rolled into other activity.

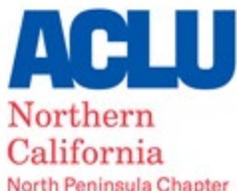
Procurement of shoes that fit properly and do not cause foot problems for the youth

Increased Probation staffing. There are staff enough to use the multi-sensory art and therapy room when completed and when a true vocational program is available. We have been led to believe that there is not enough staff for the previously mentioned recommended improvements and programs.

Thank you so much!

Wesley Liu

650-309-2670



June 2, 2023

Via Email

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

Via email:

[Supervisor David Pine \(dpine@smcgov.org\)](mailto:dpine@smcgov.org)

[Supervisor Warren Slocum \(wslocum@smcgov.org\)](mailto:wslocum@smcgov.org)

[Supervisor David J. Canepa \(dcanepa@smcgov.org\)](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)

[Supervisor Noelia Corzo \(ncorzo@smcgov.org\)](mailto:ncorzo@smcgov.org)

[Supervisor Ray Mueller \(rmueller@smcgov.org\)](mailto:rmueller@smcgov.org)

boardfeedback@smcgov.org

**Re: Implement the San Mateo County Behavioral Health Commission's
Recommendations to Improve County Mental Health Crisis Response Services**

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The American Civil Liberties Union - North Peninsula Chapter and the undersigned community members and organizations are writing to ask that you adopt each of the [Behavioral Health Commission's recommendations](#) as swiftly as possible to improve our county's mental health crisis response services and make our community safer.

We need a 24/7, unarmed, county-wide crisis response program to ensure equal access for all. This means properly trained personnel handling, responding to and following up on, non-violent mental health crisis calls.

Armed law enforcement responding to such calls leads to overuse of emergency departments, unnecessary arrests and incarceration, and the risk of confrontation leading to deadly force. We urge you to create an ad hoc committee to study and implement the Commission's recommendations.

Sincerely,

ACLU - North Peninsula Chapter

The following organizations and individuals sign on to this letter¹:

Ligia Andrade Zuniga for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Alejandra Delgado for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Michael Levinson for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Corinne Marcus for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Sara Matlin for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Joy Pasamonte Henry for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Corinne Marcus for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Chowning Poppler for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Barbara Taylor for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Beth von Emster for ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter
Rebecca Kieler for In Our Care
Adina Levin for Menlo Together
Pacifica Social Justice
Pangea Legal Services
Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
Sabine Won for Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) San Mateo
Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City
Carolyn Shepard, Solutions for Supportive Homes*
Lilian Aguilar
Jordan Anderson
Andrea Apodaca
Harry Apodaca
Cathy Baird
Chelsea Bonini
Kaye Bonney
Gloria BROWN
Marlyn Bussey
Matthew Chidester
Carol Cook
Paul Cruz
Esperanza Cuautle
Rachel Day
Katy Doctor
Firoze Doctor
Katherine Dumont
Carl Engineer

¹ English- and Spanish-speaking members of our community join in signing this letter. For your reference, we have included the letter in Spanish below.

Dina Engineer
Celia Espinoza
David Evans
Lori Evans
Sean Galvin
Sherri Garoutte
Kathleen gilbert
Alex Golding
Nancy Goodban
Kate Hiester
Clara Jaeckel
Joan John Wilson
Afshan Keval
Rebecca Kieler
Jay Laefer
Michyle LaPedis
Adina Levin
Deacon Lauren McCombs
Susan McInnis
Robin Montoya
Suzanne Moore
Emily Morris
Sheryl Muñoz-Bergman
Candice Muntz
Ann Myers
Penny Nixon
Vilma Olivera
Tovis Page
Julie Pardini
Trena Patton
Harvey Rarback
Chris Rasmussen
Stephanie Reyes
Cynthia Robbins-Roth
Ammi Rostin
Jennifer Ruiz
Elsa Schafer
Julie Starobin
Diane Stow
Laura Valdes

David Waterbury
Carole Wilson

*Organization listed for identification purposes only

Ref: Implementen las Recomendaciones de la Comisión de Salud Conductual del Condado de San Mateo con el Fin de Mejorar los Servicios de Intervención ante las Crisis de Salud Mental

Honorables Supervisores:

La Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles - División de la Península Norte y las personas y organizaciones comunitarias que han firmado esta carta les escribimos para pedir que adopten las [recomendaciones de la Comisión de Salud Conductual](#) con la mayor rapidez posible, a fin de mejorar los servicios de intervención ante crisis de salud mental de nuestro condado y brindar más seguridad a nuestra comunidad.

Necesitamos un programa de intervención sin armas en todo el condado que se implemente las 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana, para garantizar un acceso igualitario para todos. Esto significa contar con personal correctamente capacitado que maneje, responda y haga seguimiento a las llamadas crisis no violentas de salud mental.

La intervención de las fuerzas policiales armadas a ese tipo de llamadas genera el uso excesivo de los departamentos de emergencia, arrestos y encarcelamiento innecesario, y el riesgo de una confrontación que puede resultar en el uso de fuerza letal. Les instamos a crear un comité ad hoc para estudiar e implementar las recomendaciones de la Comisión.

Atentamente,

ACLU - División del Norte de la Península

Las siguientes organizaciones y personas también firman esta carta:

From: [Kevin Rennie](#)
To: [SMC_SupMueller](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [CEO_BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: HWY 84
Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 9:01:19 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.

Hi To Whom It May Concern,

Writing to elevate the need for safer roadways for cyclists. The specific purpose I am writing is the need to incorporate space and thoughtfulness for cyclists in the repair/improvement work being done on Hwy 84 outside of the town of Woodside Ca. When roadways are only designed for cars, conflict arises between cars and cyclists putting the cyclists in untenable situations where they are threatened, intimidated, and sadly at times injured.

With strong conviction, I urge help to protect cyclists on all roadways.

Thanks,

Kevin Rennie
220 Concord dr
Menlo Park Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Written Public Comment(s)
for **Item No. 7**

From: [Clara Jaeckel](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#); [Dave Pine](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [David Canepa](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Ray Mueller](#)
Subject: Comment for item 7 on the 6/13/23 agenda: Housing Element draft
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 12:23:52 AM

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To the Board of Supervisors:

I live in Redwood City and am very concerned about the continued shortfall of affordable housing in San Mateo County despite all the county's laudable efforts so far. Many families with special housing needs are priced out of the area or struggle with a high rent burden and inadequate tenant protections. I have seen too many friends forced to move out of the county as soon as they retired because they had no chance of affording to live here on a retiree's lowered income. And I know even this situation is a fortunate one compared to the thousands of families who cannot afford the rents here even when working full time, and are evicted or driven out of their homes by harassment.

As you consider the Housing Element draft, please include the following urgent recommendations:

- Prioritize funding sources for affordable housing, including subsidies, new sources of revenue, and through allocating at least 35% of Measure K funds to support housing and homelessness services.
- Implement programs that address the requirements of those with special housing needs, including people with disabilities, farmworkers, large families, and households with extremely low incomes, guided by their own input and direction on what solutions will serve them best.
- Rezone areas outside of North Fair Oaks to higher densities to promote fair housing throughout the County and meet capacity for legally mandated affordable housing requirements.
- Include tenant protections in the Housing Element and implement a rental registry to track evictions and displacement in the County.

Addressing these needs in the Housing Element now will be key for ensuring affordable and secure housing for all going forward.

Thank you,
Clara Jaeckel

Written Public Comment(s)
for **Item No. 9**



701 Lenzen Ave. San José, CA. 95126 • info@siliconvalleydebug.org • 408.971.4965



Dear Board of Supervisors,

As Silicon Valley De-Bug, we are writing this letter to show our strong opposition to the renewal of the Private Defender Program contract at all, let alone an unprecedented 5-year renewal. Silicon Valley De-Bug is an organization that has been helping families and individuals fighting cases, navigate the criminal, juvenile, and immigration court systems to better understand and advocate for their preferred outcome. In addition, we follow the lead of families who identify issues with the system and support them in advocating for systemic change. For as long as we have worked in the County, families have told us of persistent communication issues with attorneys that management does not solve, attorneys that refuse to meet with clients until the morning of hearings with life-altering consequences, pressuring clients to take guilty pleas before reviewing the evidence, and the persistent feeling from the most vulnerable that many panel attorneys could care less about the outcome in their case.

Of course, we have brushed up against 3-4 attorneys that move mountains for their clients, but they are the clear exception to the mass of unaccountable attorneys who don't do right by their clients. And to the extent that these attorneys are successful, it is completely of their own merits, not because there is a nurturing, learning environment or management that actively assists in individual cases, as exists in Public Defender offices. In fact, the Grand Jury report from 2019-2020 seems to make clear exactly why the Private Defender Program must be replaced: "Once a case is assigned, neither the County nor the PDP take any responsibility for the effectiveness of PDP attorney legal representation." In other words, the PDP does not have the ability (even if it desired) to improve what we continually hear is inconsistent and ineffective counsel from many of the panel attorneys. Competent indigent defense is not just assigning the case to an attorney and wiping your hands clean. Management must be proactive for the services to be up to par. It includes checking in on the case, helping edit motions, holding collaborative brainstorm sessions, and disciplining attorneys for low quality work. By their own admission, management in PDP plays none of these constructive, collaborative and necessary roles in pulling together a competent defense that every other county in the Bay Area considers the standard besides San Mateo County.

We spend 3 days a week in felony in-custody arraignment court, meaning we see a majority of cases with any serious allegation that comes through court. In San Mateo County, 1 panel attorney handles the calendar and, with the exception of 1 or 2 passionate attorneys, refuse to make competent arguments for release and refuse to talk to clients about their concerns before court. In Santa Clara County, 3-4 public defenders work the same hearing, some talking to families who can help with release plans, another talking to clients who have helpful information for release, and the other making arguments for release. The collaboration results in increased releases. In multiple courtwatch studies, we have found that judges set cash bail in Santa Clara County 50-60% of the time, while judges in San Mateo County set cash bail 80-90% of the time. Is this gap partially due to the refusal of many line attorneys to talk to

clients, talk to family members in the courtroom, and even make simple arguments for release that are a minimum requirement for employment in a Bay Area Public Defender office? We think so. Of course, we have mentioned these observations to PDP management and offered for over two years to share these observations directly with panel attorneys to make them aware of the inconsistency in quality of advocacy at arraignment given that PDP has shown no ability to improve the quality of arguments in arraignment. Over two years later, that meeting has never materialized. And this may be despite their best efforts, management has no power to monitor the quality of services, let alone corral the panel attorneys into a meeting with community groups.

We have two simple demands.

First, we oppose any contract for the PDP that exceeds 6 months. If the Board is to approve any contract, we would ask that it be probationary in nature and propose these additional requirements to understand if the Private Defender Program can compare in quality to a Public Defender system.

- The Private Defender Program must have their reporting standards aligned with ABA and California Public Defender offices within 6 months
- A Memo from PDP on the extent of their power under AB 5 to monitor or affect the quality of representation including an explanation on how they can ensure effectiveness without control over the quality of services compared to Public Defender offices whose major mission is ensuring effective representation
- Monthly reports about issues within the Private Defender Program
- Mandated Survey once cases close through a 3rd party reporting agency (with money incentives or fee waiver for completion to ensure high participation)

Second, we ask the Board to call for a study session to finally give a real look at a Public Defender model. According to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury report, “in the 55 years of the PDP, the County has never authorized a comprehensive, independent and objective review of the PDP against national public defense requirements.” At a minimum, we ask that a study session explores these topics and creates a recommendation:

- Conducting third party mandated surveys after the resolution of all misdemeanor and felony cases.
- Exploring why smaller counties have turned to public defender offices in the last 3 years & evaluating
 - Lake County, El Dorado County, Santa Cruz County
- Seeking data after the switch to Public Defender for counties that previously had a court-appointed system.
- Looking at the structure & function of Public Defender management and



comparing to the Private Defender Program

- Interviewing local Public Defenders about perception of quality of PDP.
- Interviewing Office of State Public Defender about relative quality of appointed cases.
- Interviewing appellate attorneys about the quantity of ineffective assistance of counsel claims originating from panel attorneys relative to public defender offices.
- Reviewing ABA guidelines and seeing if PDP passes state and federal guidelines.
- Courtwatching arraignment and other selected hearings without advance notice to the PDP.
- Evaluating the ability of PDP to undergo the necessary systemic change based on previous Grand Jury reports and current structure.

Sincerely,

Zach Kirk
Organizer

Sarait Escorza
Organizer

Lourdes Real
Organizer