

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

Ronald C. Tyler

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Director, Stanford  
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May 6, 2024

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

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

Dear Members of the Board:

I am a Professor of Law and the Director of Stanford Law School's Criminal Defense Clinic. I have served in this capacity since 2012. Under faculty supervision, my students appear regularly in the courts of San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and in the federal courts of the Northern District of California. In our state cases, students represent members of the community facing misdemeanor charges, such as drug use and possession.

Throughout my tenure, the Private Defender Program has been a key collaborating partner with the Criminal Defense Clinic. Students benefit from the advice of seasoned PDP mentors as they learn to provide zealous representation in San Mateo County Superior Court. The Clinic has also benefited from the PDP's investigative resources, and more recently, from the holistic services from the PDP's innovative social work program. In the past dozen years of my clinic's work, the Private Defender Program has been a major factor in the positive outcomes for many of our clients.

The Private Defender Program is an organization with a growth mindset. I fully support them in their continued improvement. As a clinical professor, I have long been committed to offering high quality continuing legal education to members of the criminal defense bar locally, regionally, and nationally. In fact, faculty from the Stanford Criminal Defense Clinic have conducted trainings for PDP attorneys over the years.

I am particularly excited to share with you that the Private Defender Program is one of six indigent defense programs that will be participating in the Criminal Defense Clinic's inaugural Stanford New Defender Uplift Program (STANDUP) this coming August. Eight of the PDP's newer lawyers will join lawyers from Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and other counties in receiving intensive trial advocacy training from Stanford Law School and Graduate School of Business faculty, as well as from highly skilled practitioners from around the state and the nation. The PDP's commitment to this new training program speaks volumes as to their broader commitment to zealous advocacy.

Aside from ongoing training, PDP lawyers, and the organization as a whole, would benefit substantially from increased financial commitment from the County. While I do not have ready access to the data, I suspect that the PDP budget does not compare favorably to that of their prosecutorial counterparts. I encourage you to address that shortfall during the next budget cycle.

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I am proud to support the Private Defender Program and look forward to their continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald C. Tyler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "T".

Ronald C. Tyler  
Professor of Law  
Director, Criminal Defense Clinic

## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** Elaine Salinger <esalinger@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 8:25 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** Support for speed reduction near schools

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Hello Supervisors,

As the SMC BPAC Chair, I want to ask you to vote in support of reducing vehicle speed limits near schools in SMC. The resolution is on tomorrow's meeting agenda. It is a first step that simply allows lower speed limits to 20-15 MPH. You will need to fund and complete a study and then approve the recommendations before the speed limits change. I urge you to vote for the speed reduction and rapid implementation. Thank you.

Elaine Salinger, SMC BPAC Chair

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## CEO\_BoardFeedback

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**From:** inv@charlespfister.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10, Update by the Private Defender Panel

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I have been an investigator on the Private Defender Panel for over 20 years and a private investigator for almost 30 years. I have worked with prominent attorneys in a variety of areas of law besides criminal defense, including civil rights, personal injury, employment, and family and probate law. There is no doubt that attorneys I have worked with on the Panel are extremely dedicated to serving their clients and providing the best possible defense for them. Many of the new attorneys I have worked with have stayed with the panel over the years and have become experienced and skilled advocates. I believe that San Mateo County is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of attorneys, investigators and support staff to ensure that the County justice system is balanced and fair.

Sincerely,

Charles Pfister  
Charles Pfister Investigations & Research, Inc  
PI # 22402