

## Lisa Driscoll

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**From:** Safran Daniel <danielsafran@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:28 PM  
**To:** Lisa Driscoll  
**Subject:** Measure X

Hello Lisa,

I'm a resident of Pleasant Hill and want to bring my interest in Measure X funding priorities to the attention of the Measure X Advisory Board.

I believe that Measure X funding must meet the needs of community members who are under-resourced and criminalized. In addition, these investments must be coupled with divestments from law enforcement and incarceration.

Measure X funding should have the following priorities:

**The Public Defender's Office** should have funds to hire social workers to connect to clients at first contact to mental health, housing, childcare services. Community members and their families navigating the criminal legal system are often the most vulnerable in terms of finances, housing security, and immigration status. Connecting them to resources early on is a vital entry point to promote stability for residents who have significant unmet needs.

**Eviction Defense Legal Services** are needed for the many households behind on their rent and facing housing insecurity. Public safety must include keeping families housed.!

To assure effective use of funds, the County should make the following divestments, starting with the Sheriff's Office, which has increased staffing every year for the past three years, while residents are losing their homes and have significant health needs. For these reasons, NO Measure X funds should go towards the Sheriff's Office. In particular,

### **Divest funds from the Sheriff's Office of Internal Affairs.**

There is an inherent conflict of interest exists when we task the Sheriff's Office to investigate and hold its own deputies accountable. Instead, to increase public confidence in the Office of Sheriff, fund an independent sheriff oversight body with subpoena power composed of and led by residents harmed by law enforcement.

**Divest funds from the Sheriff's Civil Unit:** The county should not pay for Sheriff's staff to engage in civil matters with Contra Costa residents, especially to execute evictions. It's unnecessary and cruel to have sworn deputies engage with community members in civil matters because it is costly and trauma-inducing, especially given the high number of deaths at the hands of law enforcement in the county. Most importantly, the county should **not** spend money on evicting families from their homes.

**Remove the Sheriff's Role as Coroner:** This is inherent conflict of interest exists when a community member dies at the hands of law enforcement. Invent instead in an independent Coroner.

Thank you.

Dan Safran