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Board of Supervisors  
651 Pine Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

Honorable Board of Supervisors;

I am a lifelong resident of Bay Point (West Pittsburg) and have been in some form of public service for over 30 years. I have worked hard to improve the quality of life for residents in our community and have always looked to the Board as a partner in that endeavor. I have worked on many collaborative countywide initiatives and have been impressed that Contra Costa County has lead by example in creating new and innovative programs to serve their residents.

Today I am here to appeal to you to provide the Contra Costa Sheriff's with a raise that is equal to surrounding communities in order to provide the continuity and more importantly the safety that your residents deserve.

I know that the Sheriff's provide outstanding services and programs across the county but I am here today to speak about the role they play in my community of Bay Point. They are truly the gatekeepers in Bay Point. I cannot think of time or an event where they were not there and not just as observers but as true partners. The team of Sheriff's serving our community over the past several years under the leadership of Lt. O'Mary is truly a model program of community policing that is beneficial to the community as well as the Sheriff's.

We have seen a drop in crime due to their active community policing because they make many contacts with residents in a timely manner they have a relatively low arrest rate, this is because they are doing what we all hope law enforcement will do and that is prevent crime from occurring before an arrest is necessary.

I credit the Sheriffs who patrol Bay Point with preventing our community from a full out gang war this past summer. In the course of one month we lost three young people to gang violence brought into our community from nearby communities. The Sheriffs immediately took proactive measures and made their presence known and let the whole community know we were all in this together and we were not going to tolerate this in our community. I was working with a group of nine local teens in a six week summer garden program, they all knew or were related to at least one of the victims. They still came every day and we were able to complete our program because we knew the Sheriffs were actively policing the neighborhoods and made their presence known.

In order for this high level of service to exist it imperative that relationships and trust is built between the communities and the Sheriffs who work there. You cannot do this when there is a constant changeover in local officers. I have in fact met with Sheriff Livingston and plead my case in the past about the importance of keeping the same team in Bay Point, this is the only way to achieve the high level of services we have experienced over the last several years.

Sheriff Livingston has done his part, our community leaders have done our part, I am now imploring you to do your part and do whatever you can to compensate the Sheriffs who serve Contra Costa so they will continue their service here. I would bet there are many communities across the nation that would pay whatever price was necessary to have the level of excellence and compassion that we have with our Contra Costa Sheriff's.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Respectfully,



Debra Mason  
Bay Point Resident