
From: Ethan Choy
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: despinoza@liftupcoco.org
Subject: RE: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Meeting - August 11, 2020

To the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County,

My name is Ethan Choy and I am a resident of Contra Costa County by way of San Ramon.

After reviewing the agenda of today's Board of Supervisor's meeting, I would like to make the following public comment:

It is readily apparent that the county is receiving an influx of funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am alarmed that the County is considering funneling those funds towards increased funding for police and sheriffs in the county. As far as I am concerned, the problem facing our county is not a rise in violent crime, but rather economic and health catastrophes. I would request that all proposed increases in spending on police services for this county be put on hold and that the Board direct our resources towards those being impacted by the pandemic and recession. I would like to add that this redirection and refocus on the county level put at its center aiding black and brown individuals who are disproportionately affected by the dual crises facing our nation. I believe one way the county could do this is to ensure housing security for all county residents and funding health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ethan Choy

From: Stacey Street <
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 6:35 PM
To: John Gioia; Karen Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; Candace Andersen; Federal Glover; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comment statement for Budget Hearing today

Greetings Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

I was unable to continue waiting in the queue to provide public comments at the Budget Hearing meeting, so now I am writing on behalf of RCF Connects. RCF's mission is to mobilize the power of connection to create healthy, thriving communities in Contra Costa County, and our core value and goal is equity. In this moment, RCF Connects as an organization, and all of our leadership and staff, have focused attention specifically on racial equity, and how to support and value Black lives, as well as lives of all people of color. We are deeply accountable, as a White-led organization, to direct energy and resources to how to be an anti-racist organization, and how to embody this stance and value in all of our practices, processes and culture. As a White woman who has benefitted from tremendous privileges of education and resources throughout my life, I am also deeply accountable to reflect deeply and challenge myself to change my own behaviors and attitudes, so as not to perpetuate the inequitable systems and circumstances that I and my colleagues at RCF Connects are trying to change. My personal values that have guided me are courage, compassion and love, and I am driven to stand in these values strongly right now. There is an urgent need for all institutions in the county, including county leadership, to do the same, and we encourage you to do this critically important work around anti-racism, as individuals, and as a Board.

I support the what so many of the residents, community leaders and organizational leaders spoke to in the meeting, and invite you to truly support Black and Brown young people and communities in Contra Costa and reimagine public safety. Please consider the recommendations that so many have made today. Please divest from incarceration and policing, systems that have perpetuated inequity and caused harm for Black residents and other people of color, and instead invest these invaluable resources in services that enable youth and all community members to thrive. These include youth programs, mental health services, housing, workforce development and substance abuse education and treatment, all of which are critical and severely underresourced.

We have an opportunity in this moment to think about what we are called to be, to truly reimagine our world, and to transform systems, attitudes and behaviors that prevent everyone in our communities from realizing their true potential and from having healthy, thriving lives. I look forward to partnering with all of you in this effort as we look to a brighter future for our communities.

Thank you very much for your continued service and leadership.

Sincerely,

From: Doug Leich
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Candace Andersen; Supervisor_Burgis; John_Gioia; SupervisorMitchoff; District5
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: My public comment for today's Budget Hearing (item D2 of the agenda)

Categories: Blue Category

Supervisor Candace Andersen, Chair
Supervisor Diane Burgis, Vice Chair
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Federal Glover
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
cc: Clerk of the Board

Dear Supervisors,

First let me thank you all for your demonstrated commitment to a democratic process, with opportunities for public comment, even though it is at times lengthy and messy. I was in the queue to provide telephone comment, but decided to hang up and send you this email instead. Here are the comments that I would have said over the phone if I had waited:

My name is Doug Leich, I live in Danville, and I'm a member of the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition and the Budget Justice Coalition.

1. We ask you to develop a **plan to close Juvenile Hall and fully fund the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility** (aka Byron Boys Ranch). As we reimagine public safety, we need to focus on rehabilitation, rather than incarceration of our young people. I applaud and support the District Attorney's statement on Reimagining Youth Justice, shared earlier in this hearing.
2. Also, I ask you to **Divest from the Sheriff's Office and invest** saved funds in housing, homelessness programs, healthcare and mental health services.
 - o **Close Marsh Creek Detention Facility**, which we understand has no one in it now but is costing **\$5.8 million** in annual operating costs.
 - o You should save many more **millions** by **reducing the number of deputies** in detention facilities to 2015-2018 levels. The adult facilities staff to detainee ratio has grown from 2.0 staff per 10 detainees in 2015-2018, to 4.5 staff per 10 detainees in 2020.
 - o **Why are we proposing to use federal CARES Act money** -- which is intended for health care and economic relief-- to fund 24 additional deputies for detention facilities? I doubt that this is a legitimate use of CARES Act funds, but an even more important issue with this proposal is that it depends on one-time funding and would have a huge negative impact on future years' budgets.

Thank you.

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Doug Leich  
[leichd@gmail.com](mailto:leichd@gmail.com)

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**From:** Jeanette Mckillop  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** SupervisorMitchoff  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 8/11 Board of Supervisors Meeting

My name is Jeanette Mckillop and I live in Walnut Creek in Supervisor Karen Mitchoff's district. I just want to make the comment that I am appalled that the board is considering allocating money from the CARES Act to the Sheriff's office. Contra Costa has had 9,404 confirmed cases of covid-19, and has had at least 139 deaths. We are living through a global health crisis, allocating the relief funds to police is immoral. We don't need more deputies, we do need public health services, and economic relief!

-Jeanette Mckillop  
Walnut Creek, CA

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**From:** Lonnie Bristow  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 6:51 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** A Letter I Wish To Send To All Members Of The CCC Board Of Supervisors, Please

Clerk of the Board,  
Would you be so kind as to distribute a copy of my letter to each member of the Board of Supervisors? Thank you for the assistance.  
Lonnie R.. Bristow, M.D..

***Lonnie R. Bristow, M.D., M.A.C.P.***  
1860 Tice Creek Drive, unit # 1240  
Walnut Creek, Ca 94595  
Phone: (925) 933-2733; Cell: (510) 882-4518  
E-mail: [lonbristow7@gmail.com](mailto:lonbristow7@gmail.com)  
August 10,, 2020

Dear Members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

I have carefully reviewed the video of the August 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and, as a concerned resident of our County, I am writing to you as a Board. Let me first say I really had little idea of the enormous task and heavy responsibility you, each and collectively, have taken on in the service of the rest of us. I readily acknowledge you are hardly appreciated enough for what you do. I send this to all of you because I want everyone to feel included in whatever solution is found.

I want to offer what I hope might be a useful line of thought. The major problems, reduced to their naked essentials, seem to be a- The Boys Ranch is a minimum-security facility for a selected population, which has a low occupancy/capacity ratio plus a burden of monetary need to bring it up to code, and b – The Juvenile Hall is a maximum-security facility for a selected population at present, which also has a low occupancy/capacity ratio which comes with its own monetary burden of overhead for the unused capacity.

What I suggest has potential to do three things; 1 – Resolve the issue of bringing the Boys Ranch up to code without adding a dollar of further encumbrance on the County overall budget, 2 – Resolve the small occupancy/capacity ratio problems for both the Boys Ranch and the Juvenile Hall, and 3 – Offers a slim (but definite) possibility that one or both facilities could be eventually closed in our County.

For goal # 1, Please consider using the land property of the entire Boys Ranch as the only needed resource for the funds required to bring the Probation facility currently used (which occupies only a part of the property) up to code requirements . The remaining property (of the 50 acre total) should be made productive to the amount required – either by leasing some, or renting some, or actually putting some into production ourselves by hiring a professional agrarian expert (i.e., farmer) to produce crops with the profit accruing to the Ranch. Any of those 3 approaches would provide needed funds. These 3 approaches would all retain ownership of the

overall Ranch property for the County, but, as a much less desirable alternative, the Board might even consider actually selling a portion of the previously noted 50 acres of land.

For goal #2, I urge we recognize the disparity between actual occupancy and capacity rates of our two facilities as being due to a much larger phenomenon: the decline in juvenile numbers requiring incarceration is two decades-long and nation-wide. The solution is to recognize this is the new normal. You should be the spearhead in clustering other nearby counties (who almost certainly are experiencing versions of the exact same problem) to join in a Regionalizing of our common problem. Several counties need to come together as a Region and decide which one (or two) have the most suitable large capacity facility for Maximum security occupants and **additionally** which one (or two) have the most suitable large capacity facility for Minimum security occupants. **That "suitability" should be judged by an Agreed-Upon Neutral Body, of course.**

Then the participating counties could all send both their high-security youth and their low-security youth respectively to their respectively identified "Best" facility along with an appropriate funding for the housing, security, food, etc. costs. They can then close up their own maximum security facility. It's a "Win-Win" for both counties. One loses its wasted overhead costs; the other also stops losing unused overhead costs. Travel for family visitation, etc. can be inexpensively paid for from the mutually realized savings by the participating counties.

For goal #3,-When the "Agreed Upon Neutral Body" has judged which facility or facilities will best qualify for use by the others, there is always the possibility that one or both of our own facilities may not be identified as "best". In that case, after arranging the movement of our youth to the "best" facility(s), we might have to actually close our own unused facility(s) because we want only the best for our youth. On the other hand, if our facilities are judged to be the "best", so be it. They would then be properly funded.

I hope that these thoughts will be received as helpful as you go forward coping with our county's problems,

Sincere best wishes to you all,

Lonnie R. Bristow, M.D.

## June McHuen

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**From:** Linda Olvera <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** despinoza@liftupcoco.org; Tony Bravo  
**Subject:** Recommendations for Sheriff's Dept. & Sheriff Dept. Mental Health Services

PLEASE READ DURING PUBLIC COMMENTS AT 8-11-20 BOS MTG

From: Linda Olvera, Contra Costa resident

1. CLOSE Juvenile Hall and Marsh Creek, and FUND the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility  
Over 80% of children incarcerated by Contra Costa County are BIPOC.
2. DIVEST from the Sheriff, and INVEST in health care, housing, mental health services, workforce development and substance abuse treatment for Black residents and disenfranchised communities.
3. DO NOT spend CARES Act \$ to fund additional deputies for the Sheriff's Office. That money is for health services, NOT incarceration.
4. Fund the "Miles Hall Non-Police Crisis Response Program": a skilled response to mental health crises that is specific to the needs of each individual and ensures fair and equitable outcomes, based on compassion, respect and dignity.

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**From:** tristan shaughnessy <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:44 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** despinoza@liftupcoco.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Item(s) C52, D3, Aug. 11, 2020, Board Meeting

Dear Contra Costa's Board of Supervisors,

My name is Tristan, and I am a resident of District 2, specifically in the city of San Ramon. I am sending this email to relay my concerns about the CARES Act, juvenile justice policies, and other important issues.

Any federal money received from the CARES Act should not be used to hire more correctional service deputies. I believe there's a growing consensus on the need to downsize these facilities, so adding more officers would run antiparallel to constituent concerns. Furthermore, and more importantly, this money could be better used on health related services to prepare for the perennial throes of this pandemic. It is worth saying that Contra Costa is on California's COVID-19 Watch List.

Consent Calendar Item C52, the approval of \$16 million dollars for mental health services in the Martinez Detention Facility, should be reinvested more prudently. There are already funds designated for mental health services, and this money could be coming from state and federal funds, not solely from the general fund. Subsidized, affordable housing policies, and more rehabilitative programs could be funded in lieu of prisons, which is the last stop for addressing criminal justice issues. At the very least this money should be thoroughly scrutinized if appropriated to the Martinez prison, and should be subjected to more discussion than afforded by a consent vote.

Lastly, juvenile hall should be closed, as directed by Contra Costa's, publicly elected district attorney, and the Boy's Ranch should remain open with adequate funding. Sending children to, essentially, a prison is not good for their long term development and it is unethical in my opinion. If a child needs to be sent away from their community for rehabilitation, it should be at a more accommodating and educational space. Keep the Orin Allen Youth Rehab Facility, close juvenile hall and the Marsh Creek facility.

These are my views on some salient community issues, and I think the Board for giving me their time and consideration.

From,  
Tristan Shaughnessy



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**From:** Isabella Millet  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** [BULK] General public comment for August 11th 2020 Board Meeting

**When we ask you to defund the police, we are not asking you to condone anarchy. Defunding systems of policing is refunding our community. We have delegated too many issues to the police. Police were not created to be a form of community protection- the origin of modern policing can be directly traced to slave patrols, and the only function of the police is to protect property. The police do not protect us.**

Instead of funding militarization, fund new programs to enforce traffic laws nonviolently. Fund social workers to respond peacefully to mental health crises as the Hall family demands. Fund education. Fund the libraries. Fund the arts. Taxpayer money should not be used to further state violence. We are not paying for justice, we are paying for violence. You are not protecting peace, you are protecting a broken and violent system.

Defunding the police is about Funding life-affirming institutions. It is about giving the people the resources that they need to thrive and be safe. Defund the sheriff. Justice for Miles Hall.

Signed Isabella, a voting contra costa resident.

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**From:** Kristin Lobos  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Item D.3. Aug 11th, 2020 Board Meeting

Hello Members of the Board,

I am writing to you in support of our esteemed District Attorney Diana Becton. I am in full support of her recommendation to close the Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall. Our County can be on the right side of history! Since it is well documented that a much higher percentage of our Black and Brown youth are housed at the Hall, let's join the movement forward to offer life saving services to our vulnerable youth.

As an advocate for mental health and addiction treatment, we know that everyone can benefit from help and treatment, but especially young people. Our brains are still developing until age 25. It costs much less in the long run to intervene in a young persons life with guedence and services, than a lifetime of dysfunction and incarceration. Our teens deserve interventions by caring adults who have the skills to guide them. In this moment of reamaging all our systems, don't be on the cruel side of history, we can do better!

Thank you,

Kristin Kilian Lobos  
Richmond Fund for Children and Youth

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**From:** Sheryl Faria <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** [BULK] 8/11/20 Board meeting: comment re: budget item(s)

Hi,

My apologies that I could not remain for the afternoon portion of the Board of Supervisors meeting. I had hoped to call in with this comment:

I want to see reassessment of budget priorities in the direction of services that promote real public health and community wellbeing, and less on incarceration and expansion of the sheriff's department. Funding for the Miles Hall Non-Police Crisis Response Program and other much-needed community services by trained professionals in their fields is crucial. It doesn't make sense to increase spending on law enforcement without consideration of decreased jail populations, the 2018 racial justice task force recommendations, and efforts to promote healthy and safe communities in the first place, thereby reducing current ongoing harm and the need for law enforcement and incarceration.

I especially object to the allocation of either CARES or AB109 funds for use by the sheriff's department. These are scarce resources intended for their own important purposes and not for use by the sheriff's department.

Sheryl Faria  
Pleasant Hill resident, almost 20 years