

Lopez, Maria [COB]

From: Felicity <felicitynf@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 10:15 PM
To: Page, Leon; COB_Response
Cc: Steel, Michelle; Do, Andrew; Wagner, Donald; Chaffee, Doug; Bartlett, Lisa; Fourth District
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT and comment on Items 12 and 15 for BOS meeting on October 6, 2020

Dear Mr. Page --

Hope this email finds you safe and healthy.

Because of my age I have been advised by health professionals to shelter at home during the COVID outbreak, which renders me unable to attend the Board meeting in person, especially considering the large numbers of unmasked people who I have seen to congregate outside your recent meetings and sometimes inside as well. Therefore, I am submitting a public comment and other comments on a few of the items on the agenda, and I ask that you read these comments into the record at the appropriate time.

Item 12: You are speaking here about measures necessary to protect public health and safety, and expenditures necessary to meet the social needs of the population. So I have a question for the Board. I am confused. Apparently, the two officers responsible for the death of Kurt Reinhold in San Clemente last month were part of an outreach team specially trained to address issues of homelessness in the community; however, even with all that special training, the object of their outreach, the person they were specifically trained to help, was killed by those very officers. My question for the Board and the sheriff is this: if this special training in homelessness outreach results in the death of one homeless man, what in heaven's name is going to happen to the all people with mental health issues that will be occupying the nearly 1000 new beds in the proposed Musick jail expansion? Will the deputies charged with their care have the same type of "special training" in mental health issues that the homeless outreach team had in issues of homelessness? Sheriff Barnes himself has said (and I quote), "We don't want to be mental health clinicians, it's not our goal for law enforcement to deal with mental health issues". And yet, that is precisely what law enforcement will be doing if the Musick jail expansion is allowed to proceed. As Sheriff Barnes rightly observes: "Every dollar spent, is a dollar not spent somewhere else." Let's follow his advice, take the \$350 million earmarked for that misbegotten jail project, and use it to build a state of the art facility, staffed with mental health professionals, that can successfully help individuals suffering from mental health issues without killing them in the process. What a concept.

Item 15: How typical that the one Proposition that Supervisors Wagner and Steel should choose to agendize and **oppose** is the one that will do the most good for our communities and especially for our children; it just goes to show where their priorities lie. If passed, Proposition 15, the Schools & Communities First initiative, will raise \$12 billion every year for California's schools, essential workers, and local governments. This will come by ensuring that all corporate properties worth more than \$3 million pay their fair share of property taxes – while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture. This money is needed now more than ever and is critical to California's recovery and reinvestment. But apparently, instead of helping essential workers and school children, the Supervisors would prefer to kowtow to their well-heeled donors and campaign contributors. There's a choice to be made here: Increase funding to school districts and community colleges, invest in local services and support economic and racial equity? Or allow wealthy corporations to

continue taking advantage of the current property tax loopholes to benefit themselves and their cronies? We the people or Big Business? We already know whose side the Supervisors choose. And why am I not surprised?...

PUBLIC COMMENT: Once again, I demand that a date be set for the 2020 TRUTH Act Forum. It is required by law and now WAY overdue. There needs to be transparency regarding how law enforcement is transferring community members to ICE custody, especially in the middle of a pandemic. Currently, 75% of people in ICE custody come from law enforcement agencies. However, in California detaining people in county jails after their release date in order for ICE to pick them up is illegal under the requirements of SB 54, the California Values Act. Has that been going on at the OC Sheriff's Department? Looks like it has, considering a case was recently brought against the OCSD for just that reason by the UCI Law Immigrant Rights Clinic, one that shows even community members who have not been charged with a crime are being held by the Sheriff in order to give ICE agents the opportunity to pick them up. This is patently unlawful, and also serves to disrupt the community by sowing fear among residents and undermining community trust in law enforcement. The public has a right to know how much illicit collusion between the sheriff's department and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement has taken place, and for that reason a 2020 TRUTH Act Forum is necessary and urgent...and required by law.

Also, I am outraged that at a time of increased focus on police overreach and the inadvisability of having law enforcement deal with situations of mental health, domestic violence and other interpersonal conflicts for which they are not at all prepared - as we have seen with the murder of Kurt Andras Reinhold by "specially trained" sheriff's deputies - and the decimation of funding for mental health care experts, family counselors and other social services agencies, the OC Board of Supervisors in all their wisdom should choose to spend over \$300 million to expand the James A. Musick facility into a "mental health jail". Apart from the oxymoronic nature of thinking any good can come from people in need of mental health care being locked up in punitive confinement, the jails we have now are not even at capacity! This is so misguided and counterintuitive, that it leads one to believe there is an ulterior motive for all this: just who will be filling all those new beds? Will more people with untreated mental health conditions be brought in from out of state so their suffering can fill our county coffers? For shame! NO MUSICK EXPANSION!

Thank you once again for reading my comments. Hope you have a wonderful week --

Felicity Figueroa
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