


Public Comment
I.2 - Post Meeting

 Outlook

Public Comment in Support of Item 26-293 — Sheriff's Office Civilian Oversight Ordinance

From Sarah Shipley <srs511@icloud.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 6:48 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sarah Shipley. I am a Humboldt County resident writing in support of Item 26-293 and urging the Board to direct staff to move forward with an ordinance establishing independent civilian oversight of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

The Civil Grand Jury put it plainly: although the Sheriff holds enormous power over policing, jails, and a \$62 million budget, his accountability is "mostly limited to annual budget reviews."

The Grand Jury recommended exactly what is before you today: a civilian oversight board with subpoena power and an independent Inspector General. The Sheriff responded by proposing a toothless advisory council, which members of this Board said fell well short of what was recommended. When pressed, he said on the public record: "Are we singling out the sheriff's office for some particular reason? I don't see a specific reason that they're saying the system we have in place is not working. To create another government body to provide advisory-type decision making to the sheriff, is that really necessary?"

The answer is yes. The Sheriff runs jails, uses force, and investigates his own office. The Sheriff may argue that oversight cannot compel him to act — but sunlight has a way of producing results. In Los Angeles, civilian oversight exposed 18 deputy gangs that had operated inside the department for nearly 50 years. None of it surfaced until there was an independent body with real investigative authority.

We already know what happens without oversight here in Humboldt. In 2024, the Sheriff told this Board his Flock cameras would respect residents' privacy. Within months, the Lost Coast Outpost found the office violating state law and its own written policy on data sharing, with federal agency names appearing in the access logs. There were no consequences, because there is no mechanism for consequences. That is the gap this ordinance fills.

Please direct staff to move forward. Humboldt County has waited long enough.

Respectfully,
Sarah Shipley
Garberville CA

(No subject)

From Giselle Yaude <giselle.yaude@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 5:17 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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Good afternoon,

My name is Giselle Yaude and I am an Arcata resident. I'm emailing to submit public comment on item 26-293 to establish a civilian lead oversight board for the Humboldt county sheriffs office. Establishing a board would increase public trust and confidence in the steps taken for public safety, and allow for greater democratic involvement. Please support this measure!

Thank you for time,

Giselle

Sherrif

From Judy Houck <jmsname@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 9:24 AM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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We are concerned the we need a real citizen review committee since it became clear our current sheriff supports a maga person who would welcome federal troups to imprison our neighbors.....I support the people who will speak at the meeting.

Judith Houck
4332 Percheron Ln
Arcata

Judy Houck
jmsname@gmail.com

File #: 26-293

From Len Wolff <riverwolf1951@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 7:21 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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File #: 26-293

I strongly encourage you to pass the Humboldt County Sheriff's Policy & Practice Board Ordinance - Establishment of an Independent Civilian-Led Oversight System for the Humboldt County.

I sent a note earlier and now after listening & watching online I have a few more comments. I agree with the Deputy who said we need to spend funds and time in training, and for some employees pay increases.

I heard from all sides that we need more trust, and I believe and there are plenty of examples where trust has been warranted and also examples where it has been broken. One example has been Sheriff Honsal speaking out against the Sanctuary Law that was passed in our County. He has repeatedly been very outspoken about this, and this betrays the trust of the community that he asks us to have in him.

I hope, and we know from many examples, where oversight Boards increase transparency, trust and relationships. This benefits everyone on all sides.

Lastly a brief story - Several months ago I was in a car for a number of hours with two local members of our Hispanic Community. I am a white male who they both trust. Several times we saw a Sheriff vehicle either parked on the Highway or driving. In each case just seeing the vehicles triggered fear related to past trauma. It would be my hope that the trust being build by having an Independent Civilian-Led Oversight System for the Humboldt County would help to begin the healing from past traumas.

Thank you for your time, service and consideration,

Len Wolff
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