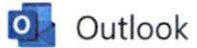


Public Comment on
Non-Agenda items



Fw: Time for a positive change;

From Kent Sawatzky <kentsawatzky@hotmail.com>

Date Fri 4/4/2025 10:40 AM

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

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Please include this under public comment on Non agenda items at the next BOS meeting.
Please confirm receipt of this communication.
Kent Sawatzky

I will propose a new direction for Humboldt County Law enforcement

Many Citizens feel that it is time for a new style of law Enforcement in Humboldt County.

It is felt that Gender equity regarding the manner in which Law Enforcement interacts and responds to the public needs to be put into practice. Rather than just stating DEI (Diversity, Equity Inclusion) is a goal, let's put it into practice.

I spoke with Ex Sheriff Mike Downing recently. An example of an investigator who did an exceptional job dealing with the public relating to child welfare issues was Kyla Baxley. Kyla is currently the Chief investigator

with the District Attorney's Office. Her participation under the Sheriffs office is a great loss to HC Law Enforcement.

It troubles me when I hear (without mentioning a name) that when dealing with a current Investigator with the Sheriff's office, multiple mothers feel that they are not given the respect and courtesies they deserve during investigations.

When an investigator of large male stature causes females to feel they are talked down to, not heard, and diminished, something is wrong. This misogynist attitude is inappropriate.

Risking stereotyping, I have found that in general many women are more caring, and more understanding regarding what it takes to raise children, their needs ETC.

I suggest that is time for the BOS to weigh in on the direction the HC Sheriff staffs the law enforcement positions that the public interacts with.

I must state we do have many great quality, caring male officers and staff working in Law Enforcement. I need to recognize how hard the job can be and thank them. some are not.

Multiple times when it has been brought to my attention how when a CWS investigation is ongoing children tend to interact favorably with a female officer, not in full uniform. The opposite is true when a large male officer in full gear and a gun tries to interact. We need different skills brought to these unique situations if we seriously desire a child to feel comfortable to tell the truth.

The BOS has control of the Sheriffs purse strings.

The public has expressed the desire that when requests are made to fill vacant positions in the Sheriff's department, that you in the best interest of the public require the positions be filled by those who are a minority on the force until gender equity is achieved.

This is a chance to put DEI into reality rather than just some catch phrase to sound politically correct.

Kent Sawatzky

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