
File #: 26-293

From Len Wolff <riverwolf1951@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 8:46 PM

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

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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.

- Local accountability gaps have already been identified.
- The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury has already highlighted concerns about jail conditions, oversight limitations, and transparency gaps. Their reports have called for stronger, more independent review structures.
- Transparency strengthens public trust, and trust improves safety. Passing this Ordinance will make us all safe and stronger. It is a way to make a clear statement that:

"Public trust in law enforcement is essential to community safety and is strengthened by transparency, accountability, independent review, and structured public participation for ongoing review of law enforcement policy and practices"

- When the public trusts law enforcement, people are more likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, and engage constructively.
- When systems are fair and transparent, job satisfaction often improves because expectations are clearer and accountability is shared.
- Oversight helps distinguish good policing from misconduct; good work is protected and credibility is strengthened.
- If there is nothing to hide, transparency should not be a concern
- This ordinance does not interfere with day-to-day operations or discipline decisions.
- This is a pro-safety, pro-accountability, pro-community approach.

Thank you for your time, service and consideration,

Len Wolff

Arcata, Ca. 95521

Strengthening Independence of HCSO-PPB & IG

From Kiley Finch <kileyfinch@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 6:54 AM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Bohn, Rex <RBohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Bushnell, Michelle <mbushnell@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Wilson, Mike <Mike.Wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Arroyo, Natalie <narroyo@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Madrone, Steve <smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Cc Kendall Finch <KendallAFinch@gmail.com>

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Good morning,

I am writing to speak out in favor of the county setting up a policy and practice board to audit and assess the HCSO, along with a strong and independent Inspector General. I want to thank the Board of Supervisors for requesting county staff prepare the draft ordinance, and county staff for their diligent work.

There are a few ways I believe we could make this bill stronger.

- In 6.C, we did not mention AB 847, which grants oversight boards and inspectors general direct access to confidential personnel records and authorizes boards to review confidential records in closed sessions. Adding this, and a provision for these closed sessions, seems like the highest value addition we could make
- In 8.2 and 5.5, I would like to request it be specified that the IG and board members can only be removed by a 2/3rds vote of the Board of Supervisors meeting in an open session, to increase independence and transparency and reduce the influence of day-to-day politics on the HCSO-PPB and IG
- Similarly, in 8.11, the IG should not need concurrence from the Sheriff or CAO to conduct an investigation. This greatly reduces the independence of the role. In the county & city of SF model, the IG has the power to carry out investigations independently, and we should give our IG that power, too

Thank you so much for your time,

Kiley Finch
District 1 Resident, Healthcare Worker, and Rate Payer



Outlook

Civilian Oversight committee

From Barbara <barbara.brimlow@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 6:55 PM

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

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I am a resident of McKinleyville. I urge our supervisors to establish an Oversight Committee for the Sheriff's office.

Thank you.

Barbara Brimlow