



AGENDA ITEM NO.  
**G-1**

# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: May 6, 2014

Date: April 23, 2014  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg and Supervisor Rex Bohn  
Subject: Discuss Community Concerns Related to Funding Law Enforcement and Public Safety in Humboldt County.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors discuss community concerns related to funding law enforcement and public safety in the county, and take appropriate action, if required.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Public safety is a very important concern in many communities throughout Humboldt County. The Board has been asked to begin a community dialogue to foster ideas and solutions to help address funding issues related to law enforcement and public safety throughout the county.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letters from the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee and Dream Quest Willow Creek Youth Partnership.

Signature Rex Bohn

Signature Ryan Sundberg

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

REVIEW: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:  
\_\_\_\_ Consent  
\_\_\_\_ Departmental  
\_\_\_\_ Public Hearing  
XX Other Board Initiated (20 min)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
Ayes  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

**\*BOARD ORDER\***

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee  
Ben Shepherd, Chair  
PO Box 2297  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

April 1, 2014

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County Courthouse  
Eureka, CA

Chairman Bohn and Members of the Board,

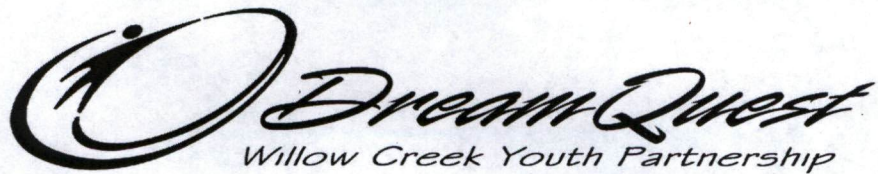
Over a period of months the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee has discussed the public safety concerns in McKinleyville. We met with Sheriff Downey and heard about the number of personnel assigned to the Northern part of Humboldt County based in McKinleyville and working from the McKinleyville Law Enforcement Facility. Due to the serious budget constraints, the level of service is significantly below historical levels. He detailed how he has worked diligently to maintain as much service as the budget would allow.

We looked at the unfunded public safety positions and were greatly concerned about the lack of funding for public safety and the significant amount of money required to rebuild the necessary staff. We also met with Philip Smith-Haynes who gave us a very detailed explanation of the funding situation concerning public safety. It is abundantly clear to us that without increased funding there is little or no opportunity to fund additional public safety positions. Because of the realignment of public safety by the State, it has exacerbated the situation and our local communities are feeling the impact of that change.

After detailed discussions we determined that we would recommend that you consider increasing the sales tax in the Humboldt County unincorporated areas and allocate those funds to rebuild our public safety network. We looked at the option of a solution only for McKinleyville, but we believe that this is a much wider issue and we encourage all unincorporated areas of Humboldt County to enter into this discussion on how to improve our funding for public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Shepherd, Chair



P. O. Box 609 - Willow Creek, CA 95573 - (530) 629-3564 - EIN# 68-0477682

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April 22, 2014

Ryan Sundberg

Dear Ryan:

Dream Quest is a non-profit organization providing youth services. We are located in central Willow Creek next door to the post office. We are having ongoing problems including theft, vandalism and vagrancy. We have had to clean up camp sites and human feces. As the weather improves, the level of vagrancy will undoubtedly increase radically. We need twenty-four hour law enforcement service in our outlying area now.

I called the Humboldt County Sherriff's office to discuss the problem. The receptionist was directed by Sergeant Ireland to have me contact you. Thank you for your return call. I have since called Sherriff Mike Downey.

Please do what you can to help provide twenty-four hour law enforcement in our area.

Thank you.

*Trish Oakes*

Trish Oakes

Director