

From: [Johanna Rivera](#)
To: [COB](#)
Subject: BoS meeting public comment
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:01:45 PM

Here are my Sept 29, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting public comments on 2 items

Agenda item E:

Good morning, my name is Johanna Rivera and I live in Arcata, I've had the pleasure to call Humboldt County my home for 15 years. It has come to my attention that the Board of Supervisors is reviewing the annual budget for the fiscal year of 2020-2021 due to a decrease in sales tax since the pandemic hit. Public budget allocations of resources among the various departments in the county are to achieve strategic priorities of the county. These resources were gathered from the public and are for the public therefore I urge the Board of Supervisors not to cut from the Health and Human Services Department. We need to keep funding Behavioral and Public Health, especially during these times of living in a pandemic. Our community members are facing eviction, loss of jobs, decrease in wages and economic instability which then leads to an increase in mental health issues and a need for secure shelter.

Research has found that increased healthcare services in a community correlates with reduction in both violent and financially motivated crimes. Our county needs to continue expanding healthcare services and instead reduce services in criminalizing people who don't have adequate human resources. Most of the social welfare services are funded through the county level, meaning you have the say if these programs continue being funded or cut. I, along with other community members, urge that if there are to be budget cuts, to cut from the Law and Justice Department. The Law and Justice budget is \$78, 687, 242 and roughly 56% of that funding goes to the Sheriff's Department.

Board of Supervisors, I urge you to show us through these budget cuts what the priorities are for our communities well being and success. Thank you for your time.

Agenda item H3:

After hearing Karen Paz Dominguez speak today and various other times throughout the past year on her department as Auditor Controller, is it very apparent that Mrs. Paz Dominguez is the expert here. I agree with Mrs. Paz Dominguez that during a pandemic we should be saving time and taxpayers money. We should be keeping jobs in our community in such a time of crisis and need. It seems that the Board of Supervisors and others really need to sit down and give Karen the space to be heard about her expertise on her department. What I am hearing her say is that her department is overworked, they seem to need to hire more staff to help get the duties done. I don't think there is a need to use taxpayers money to purchase a contract with ADP. Hire the staff needed, train them and let Mrs. Paz Dominguez get her job done, she is the expert and needs to train others to become experts like her. If the system that department uses is not currently broken, why attempt to fix it by purchasing ADP?

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(she, her, hers)

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