



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 5/12/2026

File #: 26-434

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Steve Madrone

Agenda Section: Initiated by Board Member

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Consider the Establishment of an Independent Civilian-Led Oversight System for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Form an ad hoc committee regarding the establishment of an independent civilian-led oversight system consisting of Supervisor Arroyo, Supervisor Bushnell and other County of Humboldt staff, as appropriate; and
2. Direct the newly formed ad hoc committee to prepare a draft ordinance regarding the creation of an independent civilian-led oversight system and bring it back to the Board in September 2026; and
3. Provide other direction, as appropriate.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommended actions support the following areas of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan:

Area of Focus: Safe & Healthy Communities

Strategic Plan Category: 1001 -Support and sustain partnerships between public safety and partner agencies to enhance public safety in our communities

DISCUSSION:

On April 28, 2026, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors considered the establishment of an independent civilian-led oversight system for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office to improve transparency, accountability and public trust. The proposed oversight system would create a Sheriff's Policy and Practice Board and an Inspector General, which will operate independently, but both report to the Board.

Due to concerns that certain members of the public may not have been able to provide public comment regarding this matter at the meeting held on April 28, 2026, the Board of Supervisors will revisit the item and allow for additional public comment.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no direct costs associated with considering the establishment of an independent civilian-led oversight system for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. As a result, the recommended actions will not impact the Humboldt County General Fund. However, if established, the oversight system would require additional staff time and associated costs.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The recommended actions will not impact current staffing levels. However, if an independent civilian-led oversight system is established, it is anticipated that staff could take on additional work to support the oversight body.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Sample Ordinance
2. Staff Report Regarding the Establishment of an Independent Civilian-Led Oversight System for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office dated April 28, 2026 (File No. 26-293)
3. Public Comment I.2 - Post
4. Public Comment I.2 - Post 2.0

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Meeting of: July 23, 2024; October 29, 2024; April 28, 2026

File No.: 24-1094; 24-1488; 26-293