Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
Special Meeting Agenda
October 22, 2025 6:00pm.
Andy Lopez Unity Park
3399 Moorland Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA. 95407

ADVISORY NOTICE
This meeting will be held in-person only.

Public Comment at this Community Advisory Council Special Meeting
Members of the public are free to address the CAC. Public comments for this meeting:

- Should fall under the subject matter being discussed at this meeting
- Are time-limited. Time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair and may be adjusted to accommodate all speakers.

In addition to oral public comments at the meetings, the community is also invited to communicate with IOLERO staff and CAC members through email. Members of the public who would like to make statements that may exceed the time limits for public comment, suggest topics to be placed on future agendas, or suggest questions to be raised and discussed by CAC members or staff, may send an email addressing these matters to CAC@sonomacounty.gov.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

2. **BUSINESS ITEM**

   A. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Response to the Sonoma County Deputy Sheriff's Association's (DSA) 2024 Harassment Claim Against IOLERO

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

   The next regular meeting of the Community Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday November 12, 2025 at 6:00pm.

   Location:

   Manzanita Room
   Finley Community Center
   2060 W. College Ave
   Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

October 22, 2025

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Response to Deputy Sheriffs' Association Press Release from 9-23-25

Dear Members of the Board,

The Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) has a responsibility to perform credible and thorough investigations into the conduct of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). In its recent investigation into the killing of Sonoma County resident David Peláez-Chavez, IOLERO did just that, publishing a thorough and impartial report on the tragic incident. In response, the Sonoma County Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) has raised claims and complaints against IOLERO's Director John Alden and Auditor Emma Dill that intend to call their credibility into question and weaken public confidence in IOLERO. While a robust defense is an essential function of good legal representation, it must be pointed out that DSA Attorney Jonathan Murphy has crossed the line from vigorous defense into unprofessional behavior with the press release dated 9-23-25.

The DSA's claims against IOLERO's investigative powers are a clear attempt to interfere with legitimate civilian oversight. The decision to interview deputies even when it is expected they will assert their Fifth Amendment rights doesn't amount to a "sham" nor is it harassment. The SCSO knows that IOLERO can't terminate deputies, as they have no such authority, a fact that has been covered in the local media and touted by their own leadership for years. Furthermore, the DSA speculates that IOLERO "tipped off" the Press Democrat with files that have "lawful avenues for a citizen to receive" proving that the accusations against IOLERO are merely assumptions. In fact, the only confirmed leaks of protected records have come from the DSA counsel, in clear violation of their professional responsibilities (ABA Rule 1.6).

It is an embarrassment and a disservice to our men and women in uniform that these deliberate mischaracterizations and histrionics are being passed as legal representation for the Deputy Sheriffs' Association. The DSA mission statement claims to "provide competent and thoughtful labor representation", yet Murphy's letter to the Board of Supervisors, subsequent press release and leaking of information during the month of September was neither competent nor thoughtful.

There are honest legal disputes that need to be resolved to reduce the burden on the Sonoma County taxpayers but bad faith accusations being levelled at Director Alden and IOLERO are sorely out of step with honest and productive dialogue. Furthermore, we are left questioning if this DSA legal team is doing more harm than good to the SCSO efforts to rebuild trust with the community.

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The Community Advisory Council (CAC) urges the Board to recognize Murphy's communication for what it is - an unserious, drama-infused smear tactic from DSA counsel. The CAC stands firmly with Director John Alden, IOLERO and the 64% of Sonoma County voters who overwhelmingly approved Measure P.

Nancy Pemberton and Lorena Barrera

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References: PD article, letter to BOS, link to DSA web site mission statement
Full letter from DSA counsel to BOS:
https://www.pressdemocrat.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/DSA-letter-to-BOS-9-23-25.pdf

https://sonomacountydsa.org/staff.html

https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/680439354

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