



Supervisor Gioia
Supervisor Andersen
Supervisor Burgis
Supervisor Carlson
Supervisor Scales-Preston

May 19th, 2026

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Reimagine Richmond is a local movement in Richmond fighting for community safety in our city through advocacy and education of alternatives to policing and police accountability. Since 2020, we have worked to strengthen Richmond's Community Police Review Commission and ensure police accountability city-wide.

We are writing to the Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to ending the quarterly oversight reports from the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department serves over 1 million residents across Contra Costa, including often underserved communities like North Richmond, which would be negatively impacted by removing a pathway towards policing transparency in their communities.

At the same time, quarterly reports are not enough to ensure true accountability and transparency within our sheriff's department. If the Board of Supervisors truly believes in ensuring our Sheriff's Department, it should invest in creating a dedicated Community Oversight Board that can directly investigate and make recommendations on sheriff complaints and misconduct concerns.

The creation of this Community Oversight Board can be an opportunity for Contra Costa to follow best practices set forth by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement ([NACOLE](#)), a nationally-recognized standard for how oversight boards should function.

Recommendations include:

- Hiring an independent investigator with direct access to the Sheriff department data to verify reports independently

- Granting the ability for the Community Oversight Board to issue subpoenas, request body-worn camera footage, and request internal records.
- Ensuring that there is a comprehensive list of complaints that the Board can consider for review.
- Providing a direct and easily accessible way for community members to report complaints directly to the Community Oversight Board.

As it stands, our Sheriff's Department currently operates without real methods of being held accountable for concerns and complaints from Contra Costa residents. Trust in our local Sheriff's Department cannot happen without real accountability and transparency that ensures our law enforcement operates at the highest professional standards. We urge the Board of Supervisors to both continue the quarterly reports from the Sheriff's Department while taking direct steps towards creating a new Community Oversight Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Reimagine Richmond Organizing Team
On behalf of our West County Members