

Shine a light on Solano County Sheriff

Sunday, June 13, 2021, by Jean Walker

Open letter to the Solano County Board of Supervisors



Existing state law requires a county's board of supervisors to supervise the official conduct of all county officers and ensure that they faithfully perform their duties.

Section 25303.7 of the State of California's Government Code was newly added when Assembly Bill 1185 was passed by the State Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor, in September 2020.

Section 25303.7, subsection (a) (1) states, "A county may create a sheriff oversight board, either by action of the board of supervisors or through a vote of county residents, comprised of civilians to assist the board of supervisors with its duties ... that relate to the sheriff."

Subsection (c) (1) states, "A county, through action of the board of supervisors or vote by county residents, may establish an office of the inspector general, appointed by the board of supervisors, to assist the board of supervisors with its duties ... that relate to the sheriff."

Our elected officials on the Solano County Board of Supervisors hold meetings approximately every two weeks, receiving both written and oral comments from their constituents and their employees.

The Sheriff, also an elected official, has no regular public meetings in which he listens to, or reads, his constituents' opinions. Occasionally, the Sheriff, at his convenience, might choose to respond to an email with a letter beneath his office's letterhead.

The Solano County Sheriff's Office is a black box that needs exposure to bright light.

Supervisors Brown, Hannigan, Mashburn, Sanchez, and Spering, please shine a bright light on the Sheriff's department by adding an agenda item to discuss the creation of a sheriff oversight board, or the creation of an office of inspector general, to assist you with your legal requirement of supervising the conduct of the Sheriff's Department.

Jean Walker
Benicia