



**Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)  
Public Meeting Agenda  
September 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.  
Finley Community Center  
2060 W. College Avenue  
Manzanita Room  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401**

**ADVISORY NOTICE**

The meetings will be held as an in-person/online hybrid format.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE, OR MAY JOIN THE MEETING VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM.**

**Members of the Community Advisors Council will attend the meeting in person, except that they may attend virtually via ZOOM, to the extent allowable by the Brown Act for good cause pursuant to AB-2449.**

**Join the meeting via the Zoom application on your computer, tablet or smartphone:  
Go to:**

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/91446837609?pwd=j2qKn54733dKTdNxVz2Basv5QUubuQ.1>

Please be advised that those participating in the meeting remotely via Zoom do so at their own risk. The CAC's public meetings will not be canceled if any technical problems occur during the meeting.

Call-in and listen to the meeting:

By telephone: Dial 1-669-900-9128  
Webinar ID: 914 4683 7609  
Passcode: (IOLERO) 465376

1. Spanish interpretation will be provided via zoom and in-person. Any additional language services could be available at all regular and special CAC meetings if made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to help ensure availability. For more information or to request services: contact (707) 565-1477. If you need an accommodation, an alternative format, or required another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the CAC Community Engagement Manager at (707) 565-1477 or by email [cac@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cac@sonoma-county.org) within 72 hours of the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation. Spanish interpretation will be provided within the zoom application, you must use version 5.9.0 or later. We will make every effort to accommodate you.

2. **Interpretación al español se proveerá vía la aplicación de zoom y en persona.** Cualquier otro idioma/lenguaje podría ser disponible en todas las reuniones regulares y especiales del CAC si el pedido es 48 horas antes de la reunión para garantizar disponibilidad. Para más información o para pedir servicios: llame al (707) 565-1477. Si necesita una adaptación, un formato alternativo o requiere que otra persona le ayude mientras asiste a esta reunión, por favor contacte al Gerente de Compromiso Comunitario del CAC al 707-565-1477 o notifícanos por correo electrónico [cac@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cac@sonoma-county.org) en un plazo de 72 horas de la reunión para garantizar los arreglos para la adaptación. Para traducción en español, se tiene que usar la versión de Zoom 5.9.0 o una versión más adelantada. Haremos el esfuerzo posible por proporcionar la adaptación.

## **Public Comment at Community Advisory Council Meetings**

Members of the public are free to address the CAC. Public comments:

- Should fall under the subject matter jurisdiction of the CAC (as noted in the founding documents).
- Are time-limited. Time limitations are at the discretion of the Director and Chair and may be adjusted to accommodate all speakers.

In addition to oral public comment 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@sonoma-county.org](mailto:CAC@sonoma-county.org)

CAC members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and may only listen and respond briefly in limited circumstances. Should CAC members wish to deliberate on an issue raised during public comment, that issue may be placed on a future agenda of the CAC for discussion and possible action. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the CAC after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the IOLERO office at the above address during normal business hours or via email.

## **Agenda**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

### **2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

### **3. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Chair will report on current openings and appointments. If you are interested in applying for the current vacancy please visit: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/boardsandcommissions>

#### **A. Current Vacancy:**

- District 2

**4. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

The Chair will report on correspondence items received from members of the public and relevant to CAC business.

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (ORAL REPORT ONLY)**

**6. SHERIFF'S LIAISON REPORT (ORAL REPORT ONLY)**

**7. PRESENTATIONS: NONE**

**8. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

- A. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention Ad Hoc Committee

**9. ADJOURNMENT TO START AD HOC COMMITTEES WORKING MEETINGS**

The CAC will adjourn for a 30-minute recess for each ad hoc committees to conduct business. The public is free to stay and listen. As these are ad hoc working meetings, no official public comment period will be held. Access to these working sessions is not available on Zoom.

**10. RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING**

**11. CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS (ORAL REPORTS)**

Councilmembers to provide verbal reports and/or updates on the work being conducted by their committees. There are no written reports for these items.

- A. Community Engagement
- B. Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA)
- C. Recruitment and Hiring Practices
- D. Policy Recommendations Review (Canine)

**12. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

This section is intended for items not appearing on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the CAC. Please state your name and who you represent, if applicable. Comments will be limited at the discretion of the chairs based on number of comments and other factors.

**13. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**14. CAC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmembers may provide oral announcements on things related to CAC business.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Community Advisory Council will be Wednesday October 2, 2024 at 6:00pm

The in-person/hybrid meeting will be at the following location:

**Location:  
Finley Community Center  
2060 W. College Avenue  
Manzanita Room  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401**

**Commitment to Civil Engagement**

All are encouraged to engage in respectful, non-disruptive communication that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. We, the members of the CAC, have adopted a list of norms referred to as our “Designed Team Alliance”, which describes the way we want to show-up and be in community while modeling collaborative behavior. We request that CAC members, staff, and the public follow the CAC’s agreed upon norms, which are:

- Be tough on the topic not on people
- Respect all participants in the meeting
- Respect others’ perspective, even when you disagree
- Respect each other’s time
- Stay within the meeting’s time and content parameters
- Practice active listening
- Listen with an open mind to all information, including dissenting points of view
- Speak to others as you would like to be spoken to
- Allow others to speak without comment or intrusive sounds
- Honor freedom of speech
- Call each other “in”





**Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach  
**August 7, 2024**

**Members of the public and CAC members attended this meeting in person/online hybrid format. August 7, 2024 Community Advisory Council meeting was held hybrid in person and via zoom.**

**PRESENT**

Council Members: Lorena Barrera, Nathan Solomon, Casey Jones, Nancy Pemberton, Imelda Martinez De Montano, John Azevedo, George Valenzuela, Trevor Ward

IOLERO Staff: John Alden, IOLERO Director, Sylvia Valencia Guido, Administrative Coordinator

Members of the Public: 6 members of the public attended via Zoom. 4 members attended in person. Robin Jurs, a CAC member, attended as a member of the public via Zoom and did not vote on any matters.

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff's Liaison, Lt. Sean Jones, Correctional Sergeant Jennifer Aicega (zoom)

Absent: Darnell Bowen

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:11p.m., 11 minutes late due to technical problems.

**AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was facilitated by CAC Chair Barrera. Council members introduced themselves to the public.

**2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 5 AND APRIL 15, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

A. Motion to approve the meeting minutes: Councilmember Solomon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilmember Jones  
Vote:  
Ayes: Barrera, Solomon, Jones, Valenzuela, Jurs  
Abstain: Pemberton, Ward, Martinez De Montano, Azevedo  
Absent: Bowen

Motion carries.

### **3. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Chair Barrera welcomed new members and asked them to introduce themselves:  
John Azevedo, District 4; Imelda Martinez De Montano, District 5.
- B. We continue to have the following vacancy:
  - District 2

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS**

Chair Barrera announced there was a correspondence item which came from Jim Duffy, a community member. Mr. Duffy shared in his email that the Sonoma County Gazette had published an article about the IOLERO/SCSO court case which enforces IOLERO's subpoena for a whistleblower investigation. In that article, they include incorrect information. The publication has been aware of the error and has been provided the source materials in order to correct the information but has not done so.

### **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Alden thanked Ricardo Ibarra, who continues to provide translation services during our CAC meetings. If anyone on zoom is having issues listening to the CAC meeting, please let us know by email at [cac@sonoma-county.org](mailto:cac@sonoma-county.org).

We just ended the fiscal year 2023//2024, and since the cancellation of the July CAC meeting, there is a lot to report over the last two months. With the budget process, we got a temporary position changed to permanent, we also got approval for a new position called Chief Deputy Auditor. This new position will be our 4<sup>th</sup> Auditor and first mid-level manager in the audit team, which will be supervising and managing the other Auditors. Huge thanks to the County Executive Christina Rivera as well as the Board of Supervisors for making this happen.

We are currently working on the annual report and estimate its final completion by October 2024.

Director Alden shared the litigation process having to do with IOLERO's issued subpoenas.

NACOLE's annual conference will be taking place in Tucson, Arizona. Deadline to sign up to attend has passed, however we do have 4 CAC members attending this year.

Public Comment: 1 member of the public addressed the director

## 6. SHERIFF'S LIAISON REPORT

- A. Lt. Jones shared the Correctional Sergeant Jennifer Aicega would answer questions regarding the hunger strikes.  
2 hunger strikes took place on March 23-April 1, 2023 and May 22-May 31, 2024. Reasons for the hunger strike were the following:  
Claims of retaliation due to submitting a grievance were one concern  
Commissary pricing has been a concern  
Outside cell activity (OCA) time has also been a concern  
Fasting during the hunger strike, per policy SCSO offers medical help every 48 hrs., and the correctional facility has documentation of hunger strikers eating food via commissary.

Public comment: no member of the public addressed the CAC.

## 7. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Discussed possible action regarding IOLERO's issued subpoena to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department related to a Whistleblower complaint.

CAC members asked questions and provided comments.

The CAC discussed and unanimously approved a letter on this topic and directed members Jones and Pemberton to make some edits. The final letter is attached to these Minutes. (Robin Jurs did not vote on this item since she was participating as a member of the public via Zoom.)

Public comment: 3 members of the public addressed the CAC.

## 8. CAC AD HOC REPORTS

Chairs of each ad hoc reported on the work of their committees.

**A. Community Engagement:** The ad hoc is working on developing best practices for community engagement in different settings such as webinars, media contacts, outreach to community organizations. It will also publicize the letter the CAC just approved.

**B. Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA):** With Rania's help, we are working on getting resources together to share on the website. Rania has been super helpful with reaching out to different agencies regarding their RIPA policies.



**C. Recruitment and Hiring Practices:** The ad hoc is working on a recommendation that the committee hopes to bring to the next CAC meeting.

**D. Policy Recommendations Review (Canine):** The ad hoc is working on the creation of a town hall with different presenters. The ad hoc is working on developing a series of questions to be addressed at the town hall sometime in October.

**E. Evictions:** The ad hoc would like to table its work, given the loss of both a CAC member and a member of the public.

## **9. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment: 3 members of the public addressed the CAC.

## **10. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS**

1. Update on how the lawsuit is being budgeted

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for Wednesday September 4, 2024, at 6:00pm and will be hybrid (via zoom and in person).

**Location:**

**Finley Community Center  
2060 W. College Avenue  
Manzanita Room  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401**

Open Letter to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County Sheriff,  
and Sonoma County Deputy Sheriff's Association

August 8, 2024

This Spring a whistleblower brought a misconduct complaint to the County's civilian oversight agency, IOLERO (Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach). The Sheriff's Office and DSA (Deputy Sheriff's Association) have refused to provide IOLERO with personnel materials required to fully investigate the whistleblower's allegations. The IOLERO Director has now had to turn to the courts to enforce his power to investigate the Sheriff's Office.

Sonoma County voters overwhelmingly adopted the Measure P in November 2020. With that vote, our community expressly recognized that the Sheriff is an independent, elected law enforcement official given "extraordinary authority," including search, arrest and use of deadly force. Simultaneously and purposefully, the voters exercised their own authority to institute powerful civilian oversight of the Sheriff and his employees, including the power to investigate, subpoena otherwise confidential records, and report to the public on the Sheriff's conduct and operations.

The civilian oversight authorized by Measure P is now being challenged by the Sheriff's Office and the DSA. John Alden, the director of IOLERO, has been compelled to file a lawsuit in Sonoma County Superior Court to fulfill the voters' intent that he effectively investigate "whistleblower" claims of wrongdoing inside the Sheriff's Department. As Director Alden has noted, whistleblower claims coming from inside the Department can uncover misconduct which would otherwise never be known to the public.

The Sheriff's Office and DSA seek to block the investigation, largely by claiming that IOLERO has no jurisdiction over the elected Sheriff, and that IOLERO's express subpoena power somehow does not reach complaints against the Department brought by whistleblowers despite Measure P's clear language authorizing such subpoenas. These claims are, sadly, unsurprising efforts to thwart the broad investigatory powers the voters intended.

This is not the first time DSA has sought to curb IOLERO's authority. In previous litigation, DSA and the other deputies' association, SCLEA (Sonoma County Law Enforcement Association), unsuccessfully tried to prevent Measure P from taking effect altogether.

As members of the IOLERO CAC (Community Advisory Council), we volunteered to increase public information and visibility into the operations of the Sheriff's Department, and into the watchdog oversight provided by IOLERO. As a body, we strongly support Director Alden in his efforts to fairly and thoroughly investigate allegations of wrongdoing from within the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Alden can and should assertively pursue the investigation and oversight authority the voters created and intended to be fully exercised. We are disappointed that the Sheriff's Office and the DSA are attempting to use legal technicalities to limit the full investigation and sunshining of Sheriff operations which our community demands. We urge them to rethink their opposition, and to welcome the oversight the voters, who employ them, so clearly intended.

Lorena Barrera, Chairperson (District 3)  
Nancy Pemberton, Vice Chairperson (District 5)  
On behalf of the IOLERO Community Advisory Council