



County of Sonoma
Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach
(IOLERO)
Community Advisory Council (CAC)
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March 7, 2022

Senator Mike McGuire
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 655, California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform (CLEAR) Act

Dear Senator McGuire:

We are writing on behalf of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to Sonoma County's Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO). The CAC is an 11-member Council appointed by the Board of Supervisors and Executive Director of IOLERO.

The CAC was established to increase visibility for the public into the delivery by the sheriff-coroner of policing and corrections services, to provide community participation in the review and establishment of sheriff-coroner policies, procedures, practices, training, and initiatives, and to engage the public to better understand the role of IOLERO and of the sheriff-coroner.

Extremism in law enforcement agencies is a matter of grave concern to CAC. From the active participation in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at our nation's Capitol to the unwarranted uses of force against Black people, indigenous people, other people of color, and those suffering mental health illnesses, to the discovery of ugly, racist, anti-Semitic, misogynist, and dehumanizing communications on social media and in texts, members of law enforcement agencies throughout the country have exposed their hateful, extremist views.

Those views cannot be allowed to infiltrate our most powerful government agencies, i.e., law enforcement. As a society, we grant law enforcement unique power over the civilian population: the power to arrest, use force, and even kill us in order to keep our communities safe. When those granted such extraordinary power harbor extreme views, it follows that those views will affect how

they exercise their power. Thus, it is critical that those with such views be prevented from joining or continuing to be part of our law enforcement agencies. And it is critical that members of our communities can feel confident that such views are rooted out from those to whom we grant such power.

The CLEAR Act aims to do just that: prevent those engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in any hate group activities, activity, or advocacy of public expressions of hate from becoming or continuing to be law enforcement officers. The CLEAR Act further exempts from the confidentiality laws surrounding personnel records those records that reflect a sustained finding that a person engaged in such participation, activity, or advocacy.

The CLEAR Act passed the Assembly on January 24, 2022 and is awaiting assignment in the Senate Rules Committee. We ask that you support passage of the CLEAR Act and encourage your colleagues to do so, as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Evan Zelig
Chairperson



[Lorena Barrera \(Mar 29, 2022 09:30 PDT\)](#)

Lorena Barrera
Vice-Chairperson

On behalf of the Sonoma County Community Advisory Council of
the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach