

SUPPORT an Independent IOLERO:

Independent, Civilian Oversight of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department

IOLERO, the **Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach**, was established in 2016 as a result of community outrage after 13-year-old Andy Lopez was gunned down by Deputy Sheriff Gelhaus. Now, in December 2019, David Ward was killed by a chokehold used Deputy Sheriff Blount. Sonoma County needs effective civilian oversight of our Sheriff's Office in order to better protect vulnerable communities including young people, immigrants, homeless people, and people with mental health challenges.

Best practices in modern law enforcement focus on community-oriented policing and collaborating with civilian oversight. Effective oversight increases transparency and accountability, which increases trust between law enforcement and all communities. IOLERO's effectiveness is currently challenged by inadequate staffing, inadequate budget, inadequate authority, and the Sheriff's Office refusal to grant IOLERO access to all relevant records and information.

The Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO ordinance will strengthen and improve IOLERO:

- Mandates mutual collaboration with the Sheriff's Office
- Mandates IOLERO access to Sheriff's investigation/incident reports, evidence, dispatch records, and databases
- Establishes the clear authority of IOLERO to conduct independent audits and investigations
- Authorizes independent subpoena power to IOLERO
- Establishes IOLERO legal authority over investigations into use of force, constitutional violations, sexual assault or harassment, and allegations of bias in policing or incarceration
- Authorizes an adequate budget of 1% of the Sheriff's budget, allowing for adequate IOLERO staffing
- Authorizes a 3-year term for the IOLERO director, with removal for cause only by a 4/5 vote of Board of Supervisors

Organizing meetings:

Every Tuesday night, 7-9 pm, Arlene Francis Center, 99 Sixth St., Santa Rosa

For more information, and to volunteer contact:

info@socoeffectiveoversight.org or <https://socoeffectiveoversight.org>

"Campaign to Support an Effective IOLERO", FPPC #1422712

Frequently Asked Questions about the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance:

Why does Sonoma County need civilian review over the Sheriff's Office? In 2016, Sonoma County made a great effort to achieve workable oversight in the aftermath of the Andy Lopez shooting. Recently, David Ward, a sick, disabled man neglected to inform the Sheriff that he had found his stolen car. Thinking Ward could have been an armed car thief, a Deputy Sheriff tasered, choked, and killed Mr. Ward when he was unable to cooperate by unlocking his car door. This latest tragedy reinforces the need for civilian oversight, and for transparency and accountability from the Sheriff's Office.

Why do we need a new IOLERO ordinance? IOLERO has existed in its current form for 3 years; its track record shows that IOLERO needs its own subpoena power, more staffing, and guaranteed, direct access to Sheriff's Office records, in order to be effective. The ordinance will also grant IOLERO independent investigative authority for the most serious incidents, which it currently does not have.

How will the ordinance change IOLERO? The new ordinance is based on identified shortcomings in current IOLERO operations. When the ordinance takes effect, the Sheriff will be mandated to allow IOLERO staff unfettered access to dispatch records, personnel files, and all investigative reports and evidence. IOLERO will be independent, not subject to Sheriff's Office discretion, and will have its own subpoena power, allowing for independent audits and investigations. IOLERO will then comply with core principles established for effective oversight of law enforcement by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE).

How much will the new IOLERO cost taxpayers? The budget for the new IOLERO is proposed to be at least 1% of the Sheriff's budget. Given the Sheriff's current budget, IOLERO's budget under the new ordinance would be about \$1.8M. This would support a staff of 6 to 8 people and an executive director who has been certified in the practice of civilian oversight by NACOLE.

Does the Sheriff support the new structure for IOLERO? The Sheriff's Office has accepted some of the recommendations of the current IOLERO, but has rejected many others, including a ban on the chokehold that just killed David Ward. Strengthening IOLERO will increase the public transparency of Sheriff's Office operations, which may increase the trust of vulnerable communities in law enforcement. Effective civilian oversight of law enforcement helps improve both policing and corrections, thereby protecting individual rights and reducing litigation risks for the County.

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