December 23, 2019

Committee to Support an Effective IOLERO
c/o Law Office of Jerry Threet
825 College Avenue, Suite 4
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: The Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance Initiative

Dear Committee Members:

As President of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) and on behalf of NACOLE's Board of Directors, I write to offer our support for the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) and the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance initiative, which has been proposed by Sonoma County stakeholders for the November 2020 ballot.

Established in 1995, NACOLE is a non-profit organization that works to enhance accountability and transparency in policing and building community trust of law enforcement through civilian oversight. We are the preeminent civilian oversight association and our members and Board of Directors are the leading experts in civilian oversight of law enforcement. More information about NACOLE can be found on our website, www.nacole.org.

NACOLE supports our members in a number of important ways. Our annual conference brings together the growing community of civilian oversight practitioners, law enforcement officials, journalists, elected officials, students, community members, and others, to meet and exchange information and ideas about issues facing civilian oversight and law enforcement. In addition to the annual conference, NACOLE provides member support and training throughout the year with regional training opportunities, as advisors to jurisdictions creating oversight as well as those reviewing the authority of their civilian oversight agencies.

Over the last 20 years, the mission of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement has steadily evolved to better support the practice of civilian oversight. While NACOLE has always acted as a resource to local jurisdictions interested in establishing oversight agencies, and for oversight practitioners who need assistance, in recent years we have increasingly focused on what makes civilian oversight effective.

Through our research and as a result of this refinement of focus, NACOLE recently developed principles that form the preconditions for effective civilian oversight of law enforcement. They emphasize **independence** from outside interference, **adequate funding**, **unfettered access** to records and staff of the law enforcement agency, clear and **ample authority**, **policy and pattern analysis**, **community engagement** and support, **cooperation and collaboration**, and public reporting and **transparency.** Increasingly, NACOLE has supported recent reforms of civilian oversight agencies to realize these principles to make oversight effective in meeting its promise. NACOLE firmly believes that effective oversight improves the responsiveness and effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies with which oversight partners, for the benefit of both the public and officers.

NACOLE believes the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance initiative is in line with these principles and with the organization's developing emphasis on improving civilian oversight. This ballot measure would strengthen Sonoma County's IOLERO and bring it into alignment with the NACOLE principles of effective oversight.

Sonoma County public officials took a brave step in enacting the first IOLERO Ordinance and establishing one of only a handful of agencies charged with civilian oversight of a county sheriff's office. Building on that success, NACOLE has confidence that if Sonoma County takes this next step, it will ensure that the IOLERO realizes its promise and full potential. We therefore support the substance of the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance.

We thank you for receiving our comments and should you have questions or would like to consult with NACOLE on this matter you can contact me directly by phone or email at (504) 900-1222 or shutson@nacole.org.

Respectfully,

Susan Hutson
President of NACOLE