



Councilmember Cheryl Davila  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 29, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila, Kate Harrison, and Sophie Hahn

Subject: Supporting Community Requests for Audit of Alameda County Sheriff's Office Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting activist and community groups' requests for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to audit the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget in the interest of transparency. Send a letter requesting the support of Alameda County Board of Supervisor, Keith Carson.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

BACKGROUND

The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County along with other activist and community groups from across Alameda County, called upon the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to conduct an audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget on November 22, 2017.<sup>1</sup>

Even though the Alameda County jail population has decreased significantly over the past 10 years, the Board has increased the Sheriff's budget by \$144 million.<sup>2</sup> Of additional concern are reports detailing prisoner hunger strikes in protest of inhumane and abusive conditions at sheriff-run facilities. In September 2017, four sheriff deputies were arrested "on charges of allowing inmates to spray urine and feces on other prisoners at Santa Rita Jail."<sup>3</sup> Community members have also questioned the Sheriff's

<sup>1</sup> Bay City News Service. "Activist Groups Ask Supes to Audit Alameda Co. Sheriff's Budget." KTVU News. November 21, 2017. Accessed April 05, 2018. <http://www.ktvu.com/news/activist-groups-ask-supes-to-audit-alameda-co-sheriffs-budget>.

<sup>2</sup> "Save Money, Save Lives-Audit Sheriff Ahern." Ella Baker Center. Accessed April 05, 2018. <https://ellabakercenter.org/get-involved/save-money-save-lives--audit-sheriff-ahern>.

<sup>3</sup> Gammon, Robert. "Friday's Briefing: Four ALCO Sheriff's Deputies Arrested; Alameda Could Pocket

decision to accept grant money and adopt policing activities associated with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and judgment related to the related to the design and operation of the yearly Urban Shield exercise.<sup>4</sup>

According to a 2017 report, Sheriff Gregory Ahern explained that the reason for the budget increase was largely due to salaries and other increased operating costs.<sup>5</sup> However, the Berkeley community would benefit from the increased transparency resulting from an independent audit. Potential savings resulting from the audit could be redirected towards education, housing, public safety and other critical community priorities.

CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2      510-981-7120

ATTACHMENT:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Letter of Support

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\$1.6 Million a Year From Weed." East Bay Express. November 16, 2017. Accessed April 05, 2018. <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2017/09/01/fridays-briefing-four-alco-sheriffs-deputies-arrested-alameda-could-pocket-16-million-a-year-from-weed>.

<sup>4</sup> Lindsay, Ryan. "Activists Call for Audit of Sheriff Ahern." East Bay Express. January 22, 2018. Accessed April 05, 2018. <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2017/11/22/activists-call-for-audit-of-sheriff-ahern>.

<sup>5</sup> Bay City News Service, "Activist Groups Ask Supes to Audit Alameda Co. Sheriff's Budget."

RESOLUTION NO. ~~##,###~~-N.S.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY REQUESTS FOR AN AUDIT OF THE ALAMEDA  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET

WHEREAS, activist and community groups requested that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors audit the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget in the interest of transparency; and

WHEREAS, community groups have called attention to the \$144 million increase in the Sheriff's budget over the past 10 years while the Alameda County jail population decreased significantly; and

WHEREAS, reports have detailed prisoner hunger strikes in protest of inhumane and abusive conditions at sheriff-run facilities; and

WHEREAS, community members have also questioned the Sheriff's decision to accept grant money and adopt policing activities associated with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and judgment related to the design and operation of the yearly Urban Shield exercise; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley community would benefit from the increased transparency resulting from an independent audit as potential savings could be redirected towards education, housing, public safety and other critical priorities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby supports community requests for an audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the Resolution be sent to Alameda County Board of Supervisor, Keith Carson.



Berkeley City Council

May 29, 2018

Supervisor Keith Carson  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Supervisor Carson,

The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County along with other activist and community groups from across Alameda County, called upon the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to conduct an audit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget on November 22, 2017.

Even though the Alameda County jail population has decreased significantly over the past 10 years, the Board has increased the Sheriff's budget by \$144 million. Of additional concern are reports detailing prisoner hunger strikes in protest of inhumane and abusive conditions at sheriff-run facilities. In September 2017, four sheriff deputies were arrested "on charges of allowing inmates to spray urine and feces on other prisoners at Santa Rita Jail." Community members have also questioned the Sheriff's decision to accept grant money and adopt policing activities associated with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and judgment related to the design and operation of the yearly Urban Shield exercise.

According to a 2017 report, Sheriff Gregory Ahern explained that the reason for the budget increase was largely due to salaries and other increased operating costs. However, the Berkeley community would benefit from the increased transparency resulting from an independent audit. Potential savings resulting from the audit could be redirected towards education, housing, public safety and other critical community priorities.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council