

SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Monday, March 24, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING

5:30 p.m.: Chair Crye called the Regular Session of the Board of Supervisors to order on the above date with the following present:

District No. 1 - Supervisor Crye
 District No. 2 - Supervisor Long
 District No. 3 - Supervisor Harmon
 District No. 4 - Supervisor Plummer
 District No. 5 - Supervisor Kelstrom

County Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board - David J. Rickert
 County Counsel - Joseph Larmour
 Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board - Stefany Blankenship

Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board Stefany Blankenship announced that Board Chambers would be closed in April and May due to a system replacement and that Board meetings during those months would be held at Shasta Lake City Council Chambers, located at 4488 Red Bluff Street in Shasta Lake City.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Supervisor Long.

REGULAR CALENDAR

DISCUSSION OF PRESENTATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2025, MEETING REGARDING OPERATIONS & CHALLENGES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
REDDING POLICE DEPARTMENT
SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHASTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, DISTRICT OF SHASTA
SHASTA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
SHASTA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The following representatives of local criminal justice agencies were present:

Brian Barner, Chief of Police, Redding Police Department
 Michael L. Johnson, Sheriff, Shasta County Sheriff's Office
 Stephanie Bridgett, District Attorney, Shasta County District Attorney's Office
 Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Shasta
 Ashley Jones, Public Defender, and Dan Furlong, Senior Deputy Public Defender, Shasta County Public Defender's Office
 Tracie Neal, Chief Probation Officer, Shasta County Probation Department
 Oliver Collins, Chief of Police, Anderson Police Department

In response to questions by the Board, each representative discussed issues they faced and their future plans.

Chief Probation Officer Tracie Neal discussed the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), the agencies involved, the strategies pursued, and the data presented in their annual report. Ms. Neal described the reporting of crime statistics and methods of reporting. She stated that Probation claimed all eligible Senate Bill (SB) 90 expenses from the State, but clarified that her department had several unfunded mandates.

She spoke about the youth population in diversion programs and how eligible referrals had decreased in recent years, as youth with serious crimes are not eligible for diversion programs. Ms. Neal stated that Youth Options Shasta is one provider of youth diversionary services for Probation. She stated that her department used the data from the annual CCP report to identify trends and increase cooperation with other agencies.

Redding Chief of Police Brian Barner discussed the change in national law enforcement agency crime statistics reporting in 2022-23 and described the challenges the Redding Police Department (RPD) faced in obtaining crime statistics from their current records management system. Sheriff Michael L. Johnson confirmed that the Sheriff's office faced similar challenges. Chief Barner described changes between two systems, such as multiple categories in the old system being combined into one in the new system, and the new system counting up to ten charges per individual rather than just one. He stated that even with those changes, Redding's property and violent crime statistics had gone down in recent years and credited having a fully staffed police department.

He stated that RPD was working with Probation to bring back a program to address chronic offenders, since Probation offered alternatives to rearresting offenders. He also discussed how RPD was working on different ways to address misdemeanor offenders. Chief Barner spoke about staffing changes at RPD and grant funding that allowed them to add four additional officers after cutting 12 positions. He confirmed that he, the District Attorney (DA), and the new City of Redding attorney Christian Curtis were in talks to determine whether the City Attorney's office would take back handling the prosecutions of municipal violations, as well as ways besides fines and the court system to address those violations.

Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, explained that SB 75, which added judgeships across the state, including Shasta County, did not fund them, and that local jurisdictions could not directly fund judgeships. Ms. Fowler-Bradley detailed the 13 bench officers at the court, made up of 11 judges and 2 commissioners, their differing caseloads, and the potential for future expansion. She clarified that converting commissioner positions to judgeships required the same judicial needs assessment as adding new judgeships. Ms. Fowler-Bradley described how visiting judges were scheduled and the importance of having cases scheduled to be heard by them ready to go on time.

District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett and Ms. Fowler-Bradley discussed the DA's office and the court's case management systems, as well as the laws and rules surrounding the sharing of confidential information.

Ms. Bridgett discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on cases and case dismissals over the last five years, as well as the effects from the DA's office and the court's changes to case management systems during the same time period. She explained that felonies could be refiled once after dismissal, but misdemeanors cannot be refiled. She stated that over the last year, most of the case backlog has been cleared with very few dismissals and spoke about defendants' rights concerning trials.

Ms. Bridgett stated that, while the DA consistently worked with other agencies to find ways to improve processes, ultimately, they needed the staffing and the personnel required to address the high caseloads, and discussed the department's vacancies and ongoing recruitment efforts. She stated that the District Attorney didn't directly collect restitution payments, but did have a Claims department to help crime victims submit their restitution claims, and the DA's attorneys tried to ensure that restitution was ordered by the court.

Ms. Bridgett discussed the cooperative work between the DA and the Public Defender's office in resolving cases without going to jury trial. Emily Mees, Chief Deputy District Attorney, spoke about the DA's case management system and the department's project to develop, with assistance from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and the County's IT department,

a public dashboard to provide information to the public concerning case information. She stated that they expected it to be live by January 2026.

Ashley Jones, Public Defender (PD), stated almost every case that didn't go to trial was worked out between the DA and the PD, although that data was not specifically tracked. Ms. Jones explained that the caseload backload has gone down since the department stopped taking on felony cases and most of their existing major crime cases had been cleared out. She discussed challenges from recent staff turnover and the resulting loss of experience. She stated that she was not aware of any SB 90 eligible expenses, but the PD had received a grant to fund new mandates for post-conviction cases that they were now required to handle.

Ms. Jones stated that the PD used certified law students in the office and was working with Support Services and County Counsel to offer them paid positions while they were in law school, followed by the offer of permanent positions after graduation. Ms. Bridgett stated that the DA always used certified law students when there were eligible candidates. Terri Honer, County Fiscal Officer for the DA, explained that the DA was making SB 90 claims for domestic violence cases and were working on child abduction claims, which are their only eligible expenses for SB 90 funds.

Sheriff Johnson stated that the Sheriff's Office was claiming all eligible SB 90 expenses. He explained that the Alternative Custody Program he was working on would alleviate the jail overpopulation by offering low-level offenders an alternative, but it wouldn't affect the felony population.

Supervisor Crye asked each representative to briefly explain what their goals were for the next six months.

Sheriff Johnson stated that the Sheriff's Office was focusing on the rehabilitation campus, getting felony offenders sentenced to prison rather than having them serve shorter jail sentences, and that he was working with other agencies to increase the use of alternatives to court where possible.

Chief Barner expressed the intent of the RPD to continue to be proactive, inventive, and work with the community to find new solutions to quality of life crimes.

Anderson Chief of Police Oliver Collins explained that he had recently moved to the area from a much larger county in the southern part of the state, but that the overall issues with delays in the justice system remained the same. He recommended that the cities and the County look at improving communication between their data management systems or move to one shared between them and the courts, to assist with providing data to the public and using data-driven policing.

Ms. Jones agreed that a case management system that allowed the PD to communicate with the DA in particular, and other law enforcement agencies, would improve efficiency throughout the process. She discussed staffing challenges and needs, and the need to address the root causes of criminal behavior in the community, as addressing those needs would reduce crime and make the community safer.

Ms. Neal spoke about the importance of the CCP's discussion about data collection and trends and Probation's efforts to work with RPD to make their shared repeat offender program active again. She stated that the department had been awarded Proposition 47 grant funding and they were currently working with community-based organizations to deliver services to lower-level offenders. She explained that those services would serve approximately 150-180 individuals annually and that they would go live on April 1, 2025.

Ms. Bridgett described the extremely high workload of the DA's attorneys and the importance of having additional resources and staff to assist them. She stated that she was in talks with the Sheriff concerning adult corrections and rehabilitation as a longer-term project.

Ms. Fowler-Bradley stated that the justice system needed efficiency, discussed the importance of making every court appearance count, and the ongoing issues of not enough attorneys for the growing caseloads. She spoke about the need for all justice agencies to have sufficient staff to do their jobs.

Felicia Ring, Gina Cortez-Nava, Kelli Morrison, Dawn Becker, Dolores Lucero, Rebecca W., Lori Bridgeford, Christian Gardinier, Rich Gallardo, Steve Kohn, Justin Bond, Benjamin Nowain, Jenny, Marjorie Bongaarts, Judy Salter, Thomas H., Deanne Elliot, Leslie Sawyer, and Nathan Blaze spoke during public comment.

8:34 p.m.: The Board of Supervisors adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

DAVID J. RICKERT
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy

DRAFT