

## **Issue: Police Accountability and Transparency**

George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020 sparked protests across the world and has led to an examination of systemic racism in our nation. It is clear that institutionalized racial and social injustice pervades communities across the country and fosters a deep distrust between law enforcement and the communities they are supposed to protect and serve.

In 2013, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors created the Community and Local Law Enforcement (CALLE) Task Force, comprised of County staff, local law enforcement and community members to address four important issues necessary for community healing following a Sheriff involved shooting. The CALLE Task Force focuses on Community Engagement and Healing, important improvements to Critical Incident Response with a focus on the diverse needs of families and communities following critical incidents, enhancing law enforcement programs and activities to rebuild trust and forge strong and supportive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they represent, and the establishment of independent oversight of the Sheriff's Office which ultimately gave rise to the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Oversight (IOLERO). The mission of the IOLERO is to strengthen the relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the community through outreach and the promotion of greater transparency of law enforcement operations. The Sheriff's office has implemented some of the recommendations brought forward by CALLE and IOLERO.

The 2020 Black Lives Matter movement has prompted response from Local, State and Federal representatives across the nation to take action on increasing accountability and transparency in law enforcement. On June 5, 2020 Governor Newsom announced new policing and criminal justice reforms and on June 8, 2020 the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office banned the use of the carotid hold.

Trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is essential to the stability of communities, the integrity of our criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services. Sonoma County will continue to support policing practices that promote effective crime reduction and will also support legislation that improves oversight, transparency and law enforcement accountability.

### **Action:**

- Support legislative or budgetary efforts that would increase oversight, accountability and transparency in law enforcement.
- Advocate for additional funding for programs to reduce systemic racism and unconscious bias.