

Fixin' San Mateo County is a local grassroots organization working to enact independent civilian oversight of the County Sheriff's Office.



Fixers and supporters at our 2022 Summer Picnic

About our organization

Fixin' San Mateo County (FxSMC) began in May of 2021 when a handful of county residents decided to take action for more transparency and accountability from our county Sheriff's Office.

We were incorporated as a 501(c)(4) social welfare nonprofit in November of 2021.

Our Board of Directors is 71% BIPOC, and 71% female. Our membership covers areas from East Palo Alto to South San Francisco, and from Foster City to Half Moon Bay.

Learn more about us at <https://fixinsmc.org>

Why Fixin' San Mateo County exists

In San Mateo County, 19 people have been killed by law enforcement since 2010, with no transparency or accountability for how or why lethal force was used. In the greater Bay Area, Black people make up less than 7% of the population, but made up 27% of people killed by law enforcement from 2015 to 2020.

Black people are nine times more likely to be arrested than Whites in our county; Hispanic people, twice as likely.

State law gives our county Supervisors the authority to create an independent oversight board and an Inspector General, both with subpoena power. The time to use that authority is now. The people of San Mateo County deserve to know what goes on in our Sheriff's Office.

“I actually think, in public life, we often miss one of the most important functions that we can engage in, and that is oversight. What you're doing is just fundamentally good, grassroots political action. I applaud you and wish you great success as you move forward.”

—Congresswoman Jackie Speier speaking to Fixin' SMC

Accomplishments

Less than a year after our official launch, Fixin' SMC's tireless work to garner support for civilian oversight helped bring about the historic Board of Supervisors' vote which took place on November 1, 2022.

Incorporation of Fixin' SMC November 2021

Local residents began meeting in May 2021 to explore establishing independent oversight of the Sheriff's Office, like 220 other cities and counties in the country. Fixin' San Mateo County formally incorporated as a 501(c)4 nonprofit in November 2021.

Public Launch on March 26, 2022

Fixin' SMC held a public event to officially launch itself as the only organization focused on civilian oversight in San Mateo County.

Endorsements

- Made 38 presentations to community organizations, faith-based groups, and political clubs, and built a coalition of more than 23 groups
- Gained the endorsement of 46 elected officials, including state and federal representatives, mayors, and city council members.
- 25 cities, towns, and organizations wrote to the Board of Supervisors to ask for civilian oversight at our request

Votes by the Board of Supervisors

September 13, 2022

The Board of Supervisors votes unanimously to create an ad hoc committee to study oversight of the Sheriff's Office

November 1, 2022

The Board of Supervisors votes unanimously to support oversight of the Sheriff's Office, specifically directing their staff and ad hoc committee to bring forward a proposal for both a civilian oversight board and an Office of the Inspector General.

Speakers

FxSMC holds monthly All Hands events which are open to the public. Speakers have included:

- **Jerry Threet, former Director of Sonoma County Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)** on Oversight of the Sheriff in Sonoma County
- **Allen Asch, Sacramento ACLU** on The Fight For Civilian Oversight of the Sheriff in Sacramento County
- **Supervisor Joe Simitian (Santa Clara County)** on Sheriff's Department Oversight in Santa Clara County
- **Petra Silton, Thrive Alliance and Heather McCleary, Peninsula Family Services** on Policing Data
- **Sara Matlin, Bolder Advocacy** on Nonpartisan Advocacy in Partisan Times
- **Joaquin Jimenez and Paul Bocanegra** on How Oversight Can Help Children
- **Aaron Zisser, Oakland Police Oversight Commission** on Oversight as a Civil Rights Undertaking
- **Zach Kirk, Silicon Valley Debug** on How Oversight Can Help Families
- **Mike Gennaco, The OIR Group** on How Oversight Works
- **Congresswoman Jackie Speier**
- **Senator Josh Becker**
- **Supervisor Noelia Corzo**
- **Supervisor Ray Mueller**

Endorsements

Thank you to all those listed for being leaders in supporting civil rights and advancing San Mateo County toward a better, more transparent and more accountable model of law enforcement.

Anna Eshoo, US Congresswoman for CA-16
Kevin Mullin, US Congressman for CA-15
Jackie Speier, former US Congresswoman for CA-14
Josh Becker, CA State Senator
Marc Berman, CA Assemblymember
Sally Lieber, State Board of Equalization
Noelia Corzo, SMC Supervisor
Ray Mueller, SMC Supervisor
Dr. Rod Daus-Magbual, Mayor of Daly City
Debbie Ruddock, Mayor of Half Moon Bay
Amourance Lee, Mayor of San Mateo
Emily Beach, Burlingame City Council and former Mayor
Robert Brownstone, HMB City Council and former Mayor
Harvey Rarback, HMB City Council and former Mayor
Alicia Aguirre, RWC Council and former Mayor
Jen Wolosin, Vice Mayor of Menlo Park
Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Vice Mayor of RWC
Maurice Goodman, Vice Mayor of Millbrae
Lisa Diaz Nash, San Mateo City Council and Deputy Mayor
Warren Lieberman, former Mayor of Belmont
Charles Stone, former Mayor of Belmont
Jim Lawrence, former Mayor of Foster City
Giselle Hale, former Mayor of RWC
Laura Parmer-Lohan, former Mayor of San Carlos
Rick Bonilla, former Mayor of San Mateo
Joe Goethals, former Mayor of San Mateo
Ian Bain, former Mayor of RWC
Diana Reddy, former Vice Mayor of RWC
John Goodwin, Colma Town Council
Antonio López, East Palo Alto City Council
Joaquin Jimenez, HMB City Council
Deborah Penrose, HMB City Council
Elmer Martínez Saballos, RWC City Council
Chris Sturken, RWC City Council
James Coleman, South San Francisco City Council
Eddie Flores, South San Francisco City Council
Jenn Wall, Woodside Town Council
Ned Fluet, Woodside Town Council
Michael Smith, former member RWC Council
Chelsea Bonini, SMC Board of Education Vice President
Richard Holober, SMC Community College District Trustee
John Pimentel, SMC Community College District Trustee
Kalimah Salahuddin, JUHDS Trustee
Andy Lie, JUHDS Trustee
Shara Watkins, SMFCSD Trustee
Ligia Andrade Zuniga, SMUHSD Trustee

Karen Maki, SMC Democratic Party Chair
Monroe Labouisse, Chair, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Paul Bocanegra, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Rocsana Enriquez, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Johanna Rasmussen, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Chris Rasmussen, Commissioner, Behavioral Health Commission

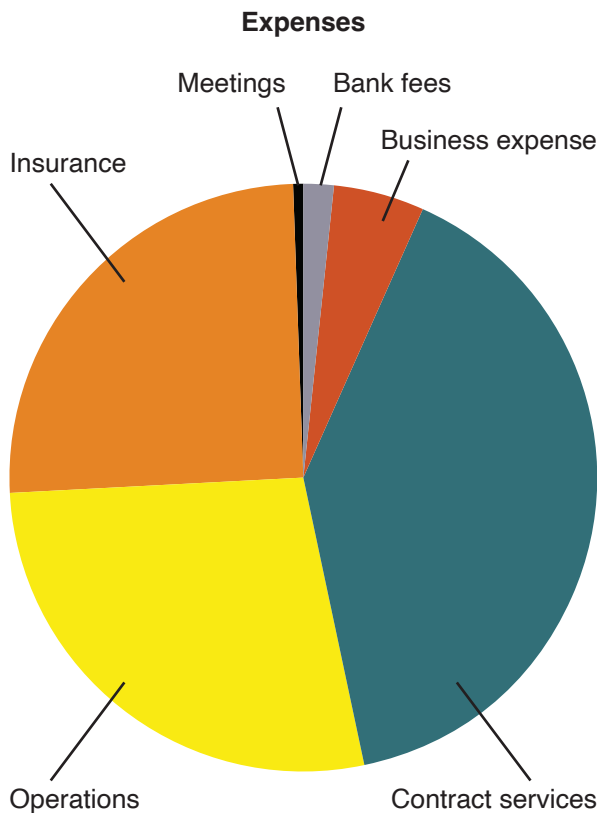
CITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

East Palo Alto City Council
Half Moon Bay City Council
North Fair Oaks Community Council
Portola Valley Town Council
Redwood City Council
San Mateo City Council
Action Council of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Belmont Neighbors Against Racism
Coastside Families Taking Action
Center for Common Ground/Peninsula-South Bay Chapter
Faith in Action Bay Area
Fools Mission
La Honda Indivisible
NAACP San Mateo
Peninsula Democratic Coalition
Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
Raging Grannies Action League
REACH Coalition of SMC
RWC for Racial Equity
San Francisco Peninsula People Power
SMC Coalition for Immigrant Rights
SMC Democracy for America
SMC Democratic Party
SMC LatinX Democratic Club
SMC Law Enforcement Accountability Group
SMC Stonewall Democrats
Sisters of Mercy Solidarity Committee
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of RWC
Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo Anti-Racism Committee
Woodside United Methodist Church

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2023

- Continue to educate the public and cities about the value and importance of independent civilian oversight
- Engage the public in providing feedback to the Board of Supervisors about the potential ordinance
- Work with the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff to develop and pass an effective ordinance
- Follow up after passage of ordinance to make sure it's being used effectively

2022 Financials



Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022

| ASSETS | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Assets | \$5,272.22 |
| Other Assets | 457.36 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 5,729.58 |

| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Equity | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 8,378.98 |
| Net Income | -2,649.40 |
| Total Equity | 5,729.58 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY5,729.58

Profit and Loss January 1 - December 31, 2022

| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Income | |
| Direct Public Support..... | \$9,510.00 |
| Total Income | 9,510.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Expense | |
| Bank Fees | -211.59 |
| Business Expense | 600.00 |
| Contract Services | 4,857.14 |
| Operations | 3,362.79 |
| Insurance | 3,042.00 |
| Meetings | 65.00 |
| Total Expense | 11,715.34 |

Net Ordinary Income - 2,205.34

Net Income -2,205.34

A letter from our Board

I am so proud of our progress toward accomplishing our mission. If asked to name our single biggest accomplishment in 2022, I would say that it's having laid the foundation from which we can build an effective independent civilian oversight body of the Sheriff's Office to ensure fair and impartial law enforcement in 2023 and the years to come.

Fixin' SMC is working collaboratively with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to make independent civilian oversight a reality. We all share the same goal of creating an oversight committee as quickly as possible.

On behalf of the Fixin' SMC Board of Directors, thank you to all our volunteers for all that you do. Your county-wide engagement with our numerous communities and elected leaders was pivotal in convincing the Board of Supervisors that there was an immediate need for an ordinance.

We know that progress does not happen overnight, and that transformative change only happens with long-term engagement. This upcoming year will bring that ordinance to fruition. We're excited about 2023 and look forward to continuing our work together to make this ordinance a cornerstone of our community.

– Jim Lawrence, Chair, Fixin' San Mateo County Board of Directors



Jim Lawrence
Chair



Miosotti Tenecora
Vice Chair



Stacey Owens
Treasurer & Secretary



Nancy Goodban
Executive Director



Nora Melendez



**Joy Pasamonte
Henry**



James Coleman



Paul Bocanegra
Vice Chair Emeritus

What oversight means

What does “independent civilian oversight” mean?

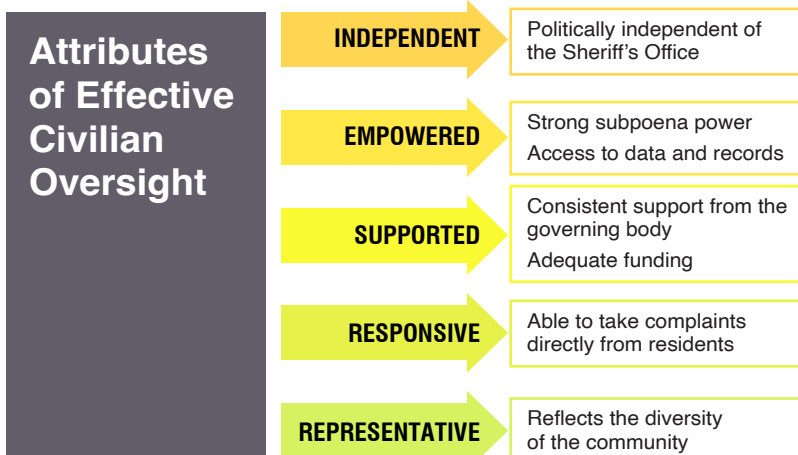
Since 2020, California Assembly Bill 1185 (AB 1185) has authorized County Boards of Supervisors to establish independent civilian oversight boards and inspectors general for the sheriff, both with subpoena power. Several California counties currently have civilian sheriff oversight—Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma. Marin and Santa Cruz counties are developing oversight systems, as is San Mateo County.

The oversight system has two entities, which work together to provide transparency and accountability:

- (1) A civilian oversight board representative of the community is public facing, hears from the public, does community outreach, and collaborates with the Sheriff’s Office to address concerns.
- (2) An Inspector General—generally an attorney with criminal justice experience—investigates incidents and analyzes trends.

Both entities can issue subpoenas and both provide regular public reports to the Sheriff’s Office and the Board of Supervisors.

In the last 6 months of 2022, the County of San Mateo paid out \$5,420,000 in three settlements due to injury or death from actions of the Sheriff’s Office. With real oversight, the public would have transparency, would know more about what happened and perhaps reduce the likelihood of this happening again. Independent civilian oversight is not a panacea, but is an essential step to bring us closer to equal justice.



How is independent civilian oversight different from a police advisory group?

In short: independent oversight is set up and operates independently from the law enforcement agency, and has the authority to investigate incidents, analyze trends, and make policy recommendations.

A number of law enforcement jurisdictions have advisory groups that provide a chance for residents to share questions and concerns. For example, the San Mateo County Sheriff has established the new Community Advisors for Responsible Engagement (CARE) program. These groups generally are a method to get feedback from the public, and report directly to the law enforcement agency. They do not investigate, analyze trends, or audit.

Independent oversight is separate from the law enforcement agency it oversees. Independent oversight has the mandate to investigate incidents and review investigations undertaken by local law enforcement and District Attorney (such as excessive use of force or deaths in custody), review patterns (such as racial disparities in traffic stops and arrests), and make recommendations.

Oversight of the Sheriff will shine a light on policies and practices of the Sheriff’s Office but is limited. For example, civilian oversight cannot set Sheriff policy and cannot discipline or fire deputies. Importantly, civilian oversight will collaborate with the Sheriff’s Office to address concerns, and support the Sheriff’s mission to protect and serve.