

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



Fixers and supporters at the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company

Progress on oversight

In 2023, oversight in our county made historic progress when the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in favor of creating a new body to assist the Board in its duties relating to the Sheriff's Office. The Board has named this body the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office.

This new Commission brings us closer to, but does not fully implement, effective and independent oversight. The resolution creating the Commission lacks several essential elements, including a permanent Inspector General, as well as any mechanism for the Commission to enforce compliance with requests for information. These elements are necessary to ensure robust oversight. There must be the capacity to respond to complaints, to request and receive access to data, to review policies, practices, trends and patterns, and importantly to have a professional Inspector General on an ongoing basis who can proactively identify and address issues before they lead to lawsuits or unwanted media coverage.

The Board voted to move forward by passing this resolution as a historic first step. Though the specific wording of the resolution does not meet all of the criteria for effectiveness, we do appreciate the Board treating the creation of oversight with urgency. Now that the Commission is set to begin meeting in mid-2024, Fixin' will monitor its effectiveness and continue to strongly advocate for areas where it needs to be strengthened.

Fixin' San Mateo County (FxSMC) thanks the Board of Supervisors for taking the first concrete step toward oversight of the Sheriff's Office, with passage of a resolution creating the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office. We are grateful that the Board has acknowledged the importance of oversight and its role in good government and community safety.

Community Connections

Fixin' SMC continued its popular monthly webinar series through 2023. These events gave our supporters and the public the chance to hear from elected officials like Supervisors Corzo and Mueller, and Mayor James Coleman; experts on law enforcement oversight like Mike Gennaco and Jerry Threet; civil rights advocates like Alyssa Victory of the ACLU; and people impacted by and responding to law enforcement violence like Ekene Okobi.

We have had live Spanish interpretation at each webinar. Thank you to the Thrive Alliance for supporting interpretation at these events.

We were delighted to have our first coastside event in August 2023, at the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company. Speaking in support of our work were HMB's then Mayor Deborah Penrose, then Vice Mayor (now Mayor) Joaquin Jimenez, and City Council members Harvey Rarback and Debbie Ruddock. The celebration was co-sponsored by Abundant Grace, Puente de la Costa Sur, Coastside Families Taking Action, La Honda Indivisible, and The San Mateo County Democratic Party Farmworker Affairs Committee. Our live auction raised more than \$2,500.

Our annual spring in person event in Belmont and our holiday party in Redwood City brought together supporters and elected officials including State Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor David Canepa, South San Francisco City Councilmember (now Mayor) James Coleman, Redwood City Councilmember (now Mayor) Lisette Espinoza-Garnica, Redwood City Councilmember Chris Sturken, Daly City Councilmember (now Mayor) Juslyn Manalo, and former San Mateo Mayor Rick Bonilla.

In March we launched the **California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight**, together with grassroots advocates in Alameda, Marin, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties, the ACLU of Northern California, and the California League of Women Voters Sheriff Oversight working group. This provides a networking opportunity and communication platform for counties that are setting up oversight.

Engaging and informing the community

FIRST TUESDAYS

We host a monthly online meeting open to the public with special guest speakers and live Spanish translation.

SECOND TUESDAYS

We host the monthly meeting of the Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County (CSSMC).

FOURTH TUESDAYS

We host the monthly meeting of the multi-county California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight (CCSO).

EACH QUARTER

Four times each year we host in-person events that bring together volunteers, supporters, and elected officials.



The Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County

In 2023 Fixin' San Mateo County helped create the Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County (CSSMC), made up of more than 30 local community organizations that support strong, independent civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Office. Faith groups, political and justice organizations, and civil rights advocates are represented. On September 12, 2023, the Coalition submitted the following letter to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Honorable President Pine, Vice President Slocum, and Supervisors Canepa, Corzo, and Mueller:

We, the undersigned, are sending you this letter on behalf of our below named community organizations. We represent organizations all over the county with an estimated 5,000 members among them, which are involved in civil rights, faith-based social justice, anti-racism, immigrant rights, and more.

We support the creation of an independent civilian oversight board and an Inspector General's Office with oversight of the County Sheriff's Office. Each of our organizations has officially voted to endorse oversight on behalf of its membership, including Fixin' San Mateo County, which helped bring our various groups together for this important cause. We join together in calling upon the County Board of Supervisors to pass a strong ordinance for civilian oversight as soon as possible.

Thank you for your leadership and support for oversight, allowing San Mateo County to be on the right side of history.

Signed,

Allyssa Victory
ACLU Northern California

Jason Miles
ACLU Mid-Peninsula Chapter

Beth von Emster
ACLU North Peninsula Chapter

Kristi Iverson
Action Council of the UU Church
of Palo Alto

Trena Patton, Adam Wantz, and
Michyle LaPedis
Belmont Neighbors Against
Racism

Stacy McCarthy
Coastside Families Taking Action

Dee Nelson
Center for Common Ground/
Peninsula-South Bay Chapter

Adriana Guzman
Faith in Action Bay Area

Jim Lawrence, Chair
Fixin' San Mateo County

Martha Ortega, President
Fools Mission

Bill Stewart, Chair
Foster City Association of Black
Residents

Katie Hiester
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)

Becca Kieler, Co-founder
In Our Care

Reverend Michael Cronin
Island United Church

Lynnette Vega and Sue Henkins-
Haas
La Honda Indivisible

Reverend Lorrie Owens,
President
NAACP San Mateo

Lorri Holzberg
Peninsula Democratic Coalition

Reverend Penny Nixon and
Pastor Marlyn Bussey
Peninsula Solidarity Cohort

Names continue on next page

FIXIN' 2023 Year-End Report

San Mateo County

Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County letter of support signatures continued

Rita Mancera, Executive Director
Puente de la Costa Sur

Gail Sredanovic
Raging Grannies Action League

Kalimah Salahuddin
REACH Coalition of San Mateo County

Clara Jaeckel
Redwood City for Racial Equity

Paul Bocanegra, Co-founder
ReEvolution

Diane Leeds, Facilitator
San Francisco Peninsula People Power

Sarah Lee
San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Susan Raye
San Mateo County Democracy for America

Karen Maki, Chair
San Mateo County Democratic Party

Victoria Sanchez de Alba, Chair and April Vargas, Vice-chair
SMC Dems Farmworker Affairs Committee

Lígia Andrade Zúñiga, President
San Mateo County LatinX Democratic Club

Shara Watkins
San Mateo County Law Enforcement Accountability Group

Sister Joan Marie O'Donnell
Sisters of Mercy Solidarity Committee

Reverend Brian Ferguson
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City

Debra Leschyn
Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo Anti-Racism Committee

Reverend Katie Goetz
Woodside United Methodist Church

The Coalition meets the second Tuesday of every month by Zoom. If your organization would like to join the Coalition, or for more information, please email info@fixinsmc.org.



Oversight: good for the community, good for law enforcement

“Sergeants and lieutenants and captains that I’ve worked with for a long time have told me that the relationship they have as a result of [collaborating] with us makes them better at their job. Because they have a fresh set of eyes that they can bounce things off of.”

Mike Gennaco, founding principal, OIR Group; Oversight Monitor, Santa Clara County; former Chief Attorney of the Office of Independent Review for Los Angeles County

“As a retired police officer, I support oversight of the Sheriff’s Office. It can improve the relationship between the community and agency, and address public concern about high profile incidents and discipline matters. Oversight will increase understanding of law enforcement policies and procedures, and identify areas of concern and offer options to improve policing.”

Chris Rasmussen, Redwood City

A letter from our Board

Now embarking on another year of meaningful work at Fixin', we want to reflect on our mission and the collective impact we strive to achieve. Our journey is built on a foundation of commitment, compassion, and a shared dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of all San Mateo County residents.

Our Mission

At Fixin' SMC, our mission is to establish an independent oversight board and inspector general office, as authorized in AB 1185. We imagine a future where law enforcement in our county is the same regardless of the color of one's skin. As a team, we are united by the belief that every individual deserves to be treated impartially by those who dispense our laws, and to have the same rights, privileges, and opportunities available to them, again, regardless of the color of their skin. And that those who violate those practices are held accountable.

Our Commitment

As a member of the Fixin' San Mateo County family, each one of you plays a crucial role in realizing this mission. Whether you work directly with the communities we support, volunteer in our operations, or contribute in other capacities, your dedication is instrumental in creating positive change. We are committed to fostering an environment that encourages collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning by all!

Always remember, together, we will overcome challenges and celebrate successes, knowing that each step brings us closer to our goal. I encourage you to embrace opportunities to lead, share your insights, and support one another as we navigate the path forward.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to independent civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Office. Together, we have the power to transform lives and build a future that reflects the values we hold dear.

We are excited about the journey ahead and look forward to achieving great things together.

– 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

Moving forward in 2024

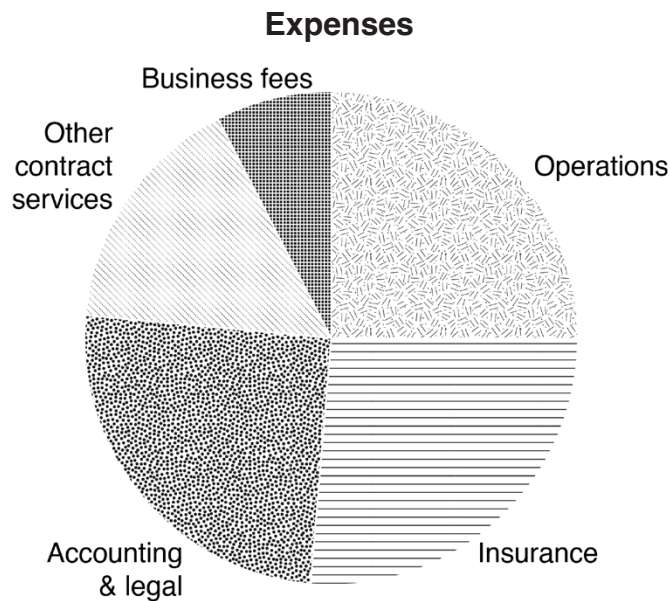
This year our goals are to continue to educate the public and Supervisors, make sure the new Commission is effective, and advocate to strengthen it as needed.

In the coming months we will:

- **Get the word out** by educating the public about oversight and the need for changes through events, educational materials, and media, and engaging people with different backgrounds and perspectives.
- **Promote an effective Commission** by monitoring, supporting and assisting in the implementation of the new Independent Civilian Advisory Commission for the Sheriff’s Office.
- **Advocate for policy changes** to add duties and authority to the Commission and to engage a regular Inspector General.

2023 Financials

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023



ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$18,149
Other Assets	\$457
TOTAL ASSETS	\$18,606

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$5,730
Net Income	\$12,876
Total Equity	\$18,606
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$18,606

Profit and Loss January 1 - December 31, 2022

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Individual and Business Contributions.....	\$19,863
Direct Public Support, other.....	\$5,000
Total Income	\$24,863
Expense	
Operations	\$3,003
Insurance	\$3,150
Accounting/Legal	\$3,013
Other Contract	\$1,910
Bank/Business fees	\$910
Total Expense	\$11,986
Net Ordinary Income	\$12,877
Net Income	\$12,877