

McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee
Ben Shepherd, Chair
PO Box 2297
McKinleyville, CA 95519

April 1, 2014

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Courthouse
Eureka, CA

Chairman Bohn and Members of the Board,

Over a period of months the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee has discussed the public safety concerns in McKinleyville. We met with Sheriff Downey and heard about the number of personnel assigned to the Northern part of Humboldt County based in McKinleyville and working from the McKinleyville Law Enforcement Facility. Due to the serious budget constraints, the level of service is significantly below historical levels. He detailed how he has worked diligently to maintain as much service as the budget would allow.

We looked at the unfunded public safety positions and were greatly concerned about the lack of funding for public safety and the significant amount of money required to rebuild the necessary staff. We also met with Philip Smith-Haynes who gave us a very detailed explanation of the funding situation concerning public safety. It is abundantly clear to us that without increased funding there is little or no opportunity to fund additional public safety positions. Because of the realignment of public safety by the State, it has exacerbated the situation and our local communities are feeling the impact of that change.

After detailed discussions we determined that we would recommend that you consider increasing the sales tax in the Humboldt County unincorporated areas and allocate those funds to rebuild our public safety network. We looked at the option of a solution only for McKinleyville, but we believe that this is a much wider issue and we encourage all unincorporated areas of Humboldt County to enter into this discussion on how to improve our funding for public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Shepherd, Chair