

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Nicholas Pasculli  
County Communications Director

September 27, 2022

### **Statement sent on behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors**

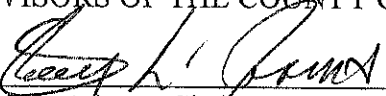
The Monterey County Board of Supervisors condemns in the strongest terms reports of sexual harassment that occurred in the Office of the Monterey County Sheriff. The County of Monterey has adopted strict policies prohibiting sexual harassment and workplace discrimination, mandates training for all employees, and expects strict compliance with those policies by all County officers and employees. To be clear, the Board does not tolerate in any way sexual harassment in the workplace, or the failure of employees' supervisors to take appropriate action when such matters are reported to them.

We cannot comment on the specifics of the allegations that have been reported regarding former (now retired) Undersheriff John Mineau, and the Board of Supervisors had no authority to take any action against him in that regard. We recognize the independent authority of the Sheriff, yet are deeply disappointed in the failure of Sheriff Steve Bernal to ensure that his management staff follow County policies. We urge Sheriff Bernal to speak out and clearly communicate that the Sheriff's Office will not tolerate sexual harassment, discrimination, or abuses of power. We also call on Sheriff Bernal to require strict compliance with all County policies regarding conduct in the workplace, including reporting violations of County policies to the Board of Supervisors. We further call on Sheriff Bernal to require compliance with all training regarding County policies. The Board also vehemently opposes the promotion of top command staff who fail to follow County procedures.

The Board of Supervisors is committed to cultivating a workplace that is safe and welcoming for all. We will not tolerate sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination in the workplace, and

urge any affected employee to promptly report such conduct to their immediate supervisor or department head, and to the Civil Rights Office. For an independent elected official, such as the Sheriff, it is up to the voters to determine the future of that Office and its compliance with the law and County policies.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Adams, Chair