



Joint Statement from the DSA and COMPA Boards of Directors

Regarding the Monterey County Sheriff's Office Budget Request

May 28, 2025

To All Concerned,

The Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) of Monterey County and the County of Monterey Patrol Association (COMPA) have come together to issue the following joint statement regarding Sheriff Tina Nieto's recent recommendation that we support her budget increase request to the Board of Supervisors.

Sheriff Tina Nieto has communicated this recommendation to our unions, asking that we support her request to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for additional funding for fiscal Year 2025-2026. The total amount she has asked for seems to vary by source and date.

Sheriff Nieto has said that without our support and without this additional funding, she will be forced to 'pink slip' a large number of uniformed members of the Sheriff's Office. The seriousness of this peril is not lost on the DSA or the COMPA Boards. Nor is the coercive nature of her recommendation.

On May 14th, Sheriff Nieto and Undersheriff Boyd sent out a joint email to the entire Sheriff's Office stating that without the budget increase, they will be 'forced to cut' up to 34 Deputies from Enforcement, 13 Deputies from Corrections, and 31 non-sworn support employees. No mention of fleet cost reductions, vendor contract renegotiations, program pauses, furloughs, or any other cost-saving measure was proposed.

Considering the fact that the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is not operational, services to the public are down in the form of dwindling patrol staffing, the resulting increase in overtime due to mandates, the addition of several middle-management positions, deputies reassigned from public-facing positions to administrative assistance for the Sheriff and Undersheriff, and the purchase of new luxury vehicles, we have some questions.



In an effort to gather information that would enable us to support the Sheriff's requested budget increase and protect our members, the DSA asked the Undersheriff for the following information on May 15th:

- Seniority lists for all Corrections classifications, with dates of hire and classification.
- Current staffing and vacancy data, or FTEs allocated versus filled for both custody and patrol.
- Relevant budget documents, such as budget submissions.

As of today, we have not received any of the requested information. A Public Records Act request to Human Resources requires ten business days.

At this time, neither DSA nor COMPA have been provided with sufficient information to publicly support this budget request. For the upcoming fiscal year, the Monterey County Sheriff's Office has been allocated a budget of \$171.8 million. Before we can responsibly support an increase beyond that amount, we believe a clear and detailed explanation of the need for additional funds is necessary.

After much consideration, both Boards unanimously agreed that we cannot follow Sheriff Nieto's recommendation. The lack of transparency through information sharing or honest communication through open discussions on alternative cost reductions leave us no other choice.

As labor organizations representing the professionals who serve within the Sheriff's Office, this request and the stated peril to our members should we not comply has put us in an unenviable position. We remain committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, and to the wellbeing of our members. We welcome further discussion to better understand the operational needs that prompted this request. Until then, we cannot blindly support a request without being a part of the discussion.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) of Monterey County

County of Monterey Patrol Association (COMPA)