



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Fourth District

Subject: Adopt Urgency Resolution Condemning the Use of Military Force in Civilian Communities and Affirming the Constitutional Rights of All Residents

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt resolution condemning the use of military force in civilian communities and affirming the constitutional rights of all residents, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the attached resolution condemning the use of military force in civilian communities and affirming the constitutional rights of all residents; and,
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, the County's State and federal legislative representatives, and to neighboring counties and municipalities, urging them to adopt similar measures.

Executive Summary

This urgency resolution reaffirms Santa Cruz County's commitment to the constitutional and human rights of all its residents. It responds to escalating concerns regarding the use of military force in civilian contexts, particularly where such force is directed toward immigrant and marginalized communities. The resolution condemns militarized responses within communities, calls for the cessation of such practices at the State and federal levels, and urges neighboring jurisdictions to take similar action. The need to take immediate action to adopt this resolution came to the attention of the County after the agenda was published.

Discussion

The United States and California Constitutions provide robust protections for individual liberties, including the rights to freedom of speech, assembly, due process, equal protection, and freedom from unwarranted searches. These rights are undermined when military force or tactics are deployed in civilian communities. This concern was brought into sharp focus by President Trump's recent decision to deploy the National Guard in Los Angeles over the weekend without any consultation with the Governor of California or the Mayor of Los Angeles. Such unilateral action bypasses local and State authority, exacerbates public fear, and raises serious constitutional and democratic concerns. The resolution highlights the harmful impact of militarized enforcement on public peace, mental and physical health, and community trust, particularly among immigrants and other vulnerable populations. These practices not only escalate tensions but also destabilize community safety and erode democratic principles.

Financial Impact

The recommended action has no financial impact.

Strategic Initiatives

Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Felipe Hernandez, Fourth District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.