

## Juliette Rezzato

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**From:** Board Of Supervisors  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** Agenda Management Support  
**Subject:** Item 15 comment\_Balawejder, A

-----Original Message-----

From: Alani Balawejder <alomonis@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 5:54 PM  
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>  
Subject: JAG Justice and Gender Committee

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Hi there,

My name is Alani Balawejder, and I am a Santa Cruz local, a formerly incarcerated resident of Blaine st, and a decade-long thriving, sober addiction counselor for a local non profit agency. I am writing to share my support for Santa Cruz's Justice and Gender committee. I was fortunate enough to serve on the committee for years as a representative of the Gemma House, a local residential program for previously incarcerated women. A program that will sadly be closing its doors next month.

For years, JAG has brought focus to social issues facing women in our community and beyond. The committee has showcased community members who have been justice-involved in some way, and given them a platform to share their experience with local policy makers, police officers, public attorneys, librarians, non profit workers, residents, and more. This ongoing conversation between the people who create social structures and the people who are affected by them needs to be fostered and supported in any way possible. It would do my hometown of Santa Cruz a great disservice to pull funding from the JAG Committee. I both urge you and heartfully plea with you to consider the importance of keeping the JAG Committee funded.

Thank you for your time.

Warmly,

Alani Balawejder