



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2022

Contact: Jason Hoppin

jason.hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT FOR INDEPENDENT SHERIFF'S AUDITOR

The County of Santa Cruz will holding a final public meeting in Watsonville on Monday September 19th 6pm to 7:30 pm to discuss the establishment of an independent auditor/inspector general to provide oversight of certain operations within the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. The meeting will take place at the Watsonville City Hall Community Room, 250 Main Street, top floor. Spanish translation services will be available.

Participation via Zoom is also available through the information provided below.

As recommended by Sheriff Jim Hart and unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors, an Independent Sheriff's Auditor (ISA) would conduct audits of investigations of complaints by members of the public, internal affairs investigations or use of force investigations. The audits are designed to ensure that the Sheriff's Office investigations are conducted thoroughly and objectively.

Following a report by the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council examining local policing practices across numerous jurisdictions and the passage of AB 1185, allowing for the establishment of independent oversight over county sheriffs, in January the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a plan to hire an independent auditor.

The purpose of the meeting is to collect community feedback prior to issuing a Request for Proposals to select an ISA. To join the meeting virtually, go to:

Zoom Access

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84875813099>

Webinar ID: 848 7581 3099