

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW BOARD
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024
DATED AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025**



Count on us.

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATED TERMS

AI – Artificial Intelligence

APD - Albuquerque Police Department

BCC - Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners

BCSO – Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office

BHU - Behavioral Health Unit

BWC - Body-Worn Camera

ERFPO Act - New Mexico Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act, NM Stat § 40-17-12 (2023), also known as the Red Flag Law

ORDINANCE - Bernalillo County Ordinance 2020-21 (See Attachment 1)

RED FLAG LAW - New Mexico Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act, NM Stat § 40-17-12 (2023), also known as the “ERFPO Act”

SOARB – Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office Advisory and Review Board

SOP - Standard Operating Procedures

SRO – School Resource Officer

FOREWORD TO SOARB ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

TO: The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners
FR: The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Advisory and Review Board

We open our fourth Annual Report by thanking all the members of the Bernalillo County Commission for your genuine interest in and support of SOARB's mission, and for considering each and every recommendation in SOARB's 2023 Annual Report. SOARB could not ask for a more responsive reception from BCC.

We would also like to commend BCSO under the leadership of Sheriff John Allen for its "can-do" approach to law enforcement, its commitment to transparency and to protecting the community, its consideration of each and every recommendation in SOARB's 2023 Annual Report, and for its extraordinary willingness to engage with SOARB by having at least one and often more members of Senior Staff attend multiple SOARB meetings in 2024.

The substantive issues we considered in 2024 are detailed in this report. Many thanks are in order for this report and the progress we believe we have achieved:

Vice Chair	Debbie Strongin
Board Members	Richard A. Clark, Elena Giacci, Dianne Layden, Matthew B. Ray, W. James Stewart, William J. Walker, Michael Wismer, and former SOARB members Debi Dodge and Joseph A. López, all of whom contributed their efforts to this Annual Report
Staff	Danette Marie Maestas, Special Projects Coordinator Daniel Roberson, Bernalillo County Senior Attorney Estevan Vásquez, Communications Coordinator
BCSO	Sheriff John D. Allen, Undersheriff Johann K. Jareno, Undersheriff Aaron Williamson, Major Hollie Anderson, Chief Deputy Nicholas Huffmyer, Sergeant Amy Dudewicz, Sergeant Darrell Tidwell, Executive Assistant to Sheriff Allen Desiree Castell
Media	Albuquerque Journal, Newsradio KKOB (Bob Clark; TJ Trout), KOAT TV, KRQE TV Morning Show, NMPBS (New Mexico in Focus)
The Citizens of Bernalillo County	Special thanks to all who participated, attended or watched a meeting or listening session, or shared their views with SOARB

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Advisory and Review Board

By its Chair: /s/ Tommy Jewell
The Hon. Tommy Jewell (Ret.)

Section I: ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BCSO

1. SOARB's overall recommendation to BCSO is to maintain its “can-do” attitude, and to continue the advances it has made under Sheriff Allen in enhancing transparency and responding to community concerns, including: its encouragement and support of BCSO’s Behavioral Health Unit that serves some of the neediest and most neglected members of the community; designation of other law enforcements agencies to lead investigations that involve shootings by BCSO members; targeted anti-crime operations such as those in Old Town and the Central Corridor, and those directed at specific crimes, including retail theft, auto theft and illegal drug dealing; upgrading its taser and Body Worn Camera (**BWC**) capabilities; and community outreach through listening sessions held jointly with Bernalillo County District Attorney Bregman at various locations in the County.
2. Continue its practice of designating an outside law enforcement agency as the lead investigator in cases involving a shooting by BCSO deputies. This is directly responsive to serious concerns members of the community expressed to SOARB prior to Sheriff Allen’s term that BCSO’s designation as the lead investigative agency in BCSO-involved shootings resulted in diminished public confidence in the results of such investigations because BCSO’s investigation of itself created, if not actual bias, then a perception of bias.¹
3. Continue all the actions, programs and initiatives enumerated in Section VI of this Report.
4. Consider how SOARB may be a resource to supplement BCSO’s efforts to enhance transparency and reach out to the community, including increasing engagement with SOARB to the extent feasible.

Section II: ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BCC

1. BCC should look for opportunities for the Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health to partner with the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and law enforcement agencies, including BCSO, to find ways to educate the public about the potential protections offered by New Mexico’s Red Flag Law, including the conditions and circumstances that might call for the use of such law.
2. SOARB supports Sheriff Allen’s initiative to put more deputies in the field by adding civilian administrative positions, including a third Crime Analyst position and a new Accountability Manager position, to handle certain administrative functions currently performed by deputies, as discussed in Section IX of this Report. SOARB supports this initiative and recommends that BCC fund these positions to the extent possible.
3. BCC should continue to maintain regular contact with SOARB throughout the year. SOARB should also increase its outreach to BCC.
4. Due to the resignation of a SOARB member who moved out of Bernalillo County, SOARB membership was at eight for ten months - October 2023-July 2024. BCC should endeavor to

¹ See discussion of this issue in SOARB’s Annual Reports for calendar years 2020-2021 and 2022. All SOARB’s Annual Reports are available at <https://www.bernco.gov/boards-commissions/sheriffs-office-advisory-and-review-board/>

fill any SOARB vacancy promptly because SOARB can function most effectively with a full complement of nine members. SOARB appreciates the BCC's appointment of three new SOARB members in 2024 so that membership is currently at nine.

Section III: ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

1. BCSO has made a noteworthy effort at transparency by keeping the public informed of its investigations, policies, breaking news, press conferences, emergency alerts, crime statistics, community outreach, charitable efforts and other matters by regular posts on the following sites: the Bernalillo County Website: <https://www.bernco.gov/bernalillo-county-sheriff/>; and on social media sites including: Facebook, at Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office; and X (formerly Twitter): at BCSO (Sheriff) NM @BCSONM. SOARB recommends that all interested members of the community follow BCSO on at least some of these sites, where the coverage of events is in many cases more expansive than the coverage available through print, radio and television media.
2. The public should seek education and understanding of the potential protections offered by New Mexico's Red Flag Law (also called the Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act, or ERPO Act) (discussed in Section X of this Report). Among other resources, the public may consult the following:
 - a. A step-by-step guide to the steps necessary to initiate a complaint under the Red Flag Law may be found on the Attorney General's website at <https://erponewmexico.org/general-information/>
 - b. BCSO's website specifies whom to contact for ERPO information at: <https://www.bernco.gov/bernalillo-county-sheriff/behavioral-health/erfpo/>

Section IV: HISTORY OF SOARB

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Advisory and Review Board (**SOARB**) was created by Bernalillo County Ordinance 2020-21 (**Ordinance**), enacted by the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners (**BCC**) on September 9, 2020 (**See Attachment 1**). The Ordinance authorized a nine-member board whose task is: "to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (**BCSO**), by providing robust opportunities for community engagement, analysis and review of the Office's policies, practices, procedures, and provide advice to the Board of Bernalillo County Commissioners, the Sheriff's Office, and the public." At the time of its passage, the BCC noted that SOARB was not created solely to address issues involving any particular Sheriff, but rather to work with the BCSO to enhance BCSO's transparency and accountability on an ongoing basis.²

The Ordinance gives the BCSO, through the Sheriff or designee(s), the right to attend and speak at every SOARB meeting. All SOARB meetings have provided both the public and BCSO with the opportunity to comment in person (except when prohibited by COVID regulations in 2020-22), virtually

² For a more detailed discussion of the history of SOARB, see SOARB's Annual Reports for calendar years 2020-2021, 2022 and 2023 at <https://www.bernco.gov/boards-commissions/sheriffs-office-advisory-and-review-board/>

(when such technology is available), and in writing by email or letter, including anonymous comments for those so requesting. Since its first meeting on November 13, 2020, SOARB has met once a month with few exceptions; meetings through September 2022 were held virtually due to COVID precautions. Since then, most meetings have been a hybrid of in-person and virtual meetings.

All SOARB meetings are: (1) subject to the provisions of New Mexico's Open Meetings Act, including providing prior notice of meetings, and allowing public comment at all meetings; and (2) held in accordance with rules of procedure adopted by SOARB, including provisions for virtual meetings, and procedures for SOARB to follow for giving advice to BCC and BCSO in fulfillment of its advisory function under the Ordinance. At its first meeting of 2024, SOARB unanimously appointed Tommy Jewell for a fourth term as Chair, and Debbie Strongin for a third term as Vice Chair.

Section V: SOARB'S MISSION

1. Transparency and Accountability: SOARB seeks to provide a robust and respectful forum for public comment and engagement concerning BCSO's actions, policies, procedures, services and programs to fulfill SOARB's mission to enhance BCSO's transparency and accountability to the public.
2. Review BCSO Policies: Analyze and review BCSO's policies, practices and procedures as mandated by the Ordinance.
3. Advisory Role: Provide advice and recommendations to the BCC, the BCSO, and the public concerning the foregoing, as provided in the Ordinance.
4. Annual Report: Prepare and distribute an Annual Report to the BCC and the BCSO in January of each year, summing up SOARB's activities during the prior year and its plans for the coming year.

Section VI: SHERIFF JOHN ALLEN'S ADMINISTRATION

Since January 2023, when Sheriff John Allen took office, SOARB has noted with approval BCSO's commitment to innovative, transparent and responsive approaches to law enforcement, including:

1. Endeavoring to increase citizens' safety by initiating a series of law enforcement operations directed at high crime areas, such as the Central Corridor and Old Town, as well as operations directed at combatting specific crimes, including retail theft, auto theft and illegal drug dealing.
2. Directing law enforcement efforts wherever needed throughout Bernalillo County, and not just focusing on the unincorporated areas of the County, as had been done under previous administrations.
3. Working cooperatively with APD rather than competitively as sometimes occurred during past administrations.

4. Engaging with the community, including young people and those with special needs, in numerous ways, including sponsoring, supporting and participating in numerous charitable causes and community sporting events.
5. Designating an outside law enforcement agency as the lead investigator in cases involving a shooting by BCSO deputies. This is directly responsive to serious concerns members of the community expressed to SOARB prior to Sheriff Allen's term that BCSO's designation as the lead investigative agency in BCSO-involved shootings resulted in diminished public confidence in the results of such investigations because BCSO's investigation of itself created, if not actual bias, then a perception of bias. (See *Footnote 1, above*)
6. Community outreach through listening sessions held jointly with Bernalillo County District Attorney Bregman at various locations in the County.
7. Planning to streamline operations and enhance oversight by transferring certain administrative duties to civilian personnel, including creation of Crime Analyst and Accountability Manager positions. (See discussion in Section IX of this Report)
8. Transferring primary responsibility for enforcement of New Mexico's Red Flag Law to the Behavioral Health Unit. (See discussion in Section X of this Report)
9. Sheriff Allen and has been instrumental in assisting New Mexico's Attorney General in developing a state-wide training program for law enforcement personnel on the proper use of the Red Flag Law.
10. Careful evaluation of whether, in Sheriff Allen's words, "responsible AI"³ [Artificial Intelligence] may appropriately be used to assist BCSO deputies in drafting reports, including performing extensive research on: the practices of other law enforcement agencies locally and nationally; following AI developments in the courts locally and nationally; extensive consultation with Axon (the company that supplies BCSO's BWC and Taser capabilities) on the efficacy of using AI, including addressing issues of potential bias and inaccuracy in such reports; implementing a system requiring that each AI-generated report must be initialed line-by-line and signed by the reporting Deputy before it can be filed; and limiting the initial use of AI reporting to smaller non-homicide cases.

Section VII: SOARB MEMBERS & YEAR OF APPOINTMENT

1. The Hon. Tommy Jewell (ret.), Chair (District 3; 2020): Judge on the Second Judicial District Court of NM 1991-2005, including service as Presiding Children's Court Judge; prior service as a Judge in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court for 8 years; currently in private law practice.

³ Video of Sheriff Allen's full remarks concerning AI at SOARB's 9/13/2024 meeting is available on SOARB's website at <https://www.bernco.gov/boards-commissions/sheriffs-office-advisory-and-review-board/>

2. Richard A. Clark, Jr. (At Large, 2024): Retired from New Mexico National Guard in 2011 as a Colonel, having served for over 25 years in various leadership roles, with a final assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Joint Staff. Civilian careers include: 5 years with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as the Intelligence Fusion Center Director; 7 years with Bernalillo County Department of Emergency Management as the Director; and 6 years as a Sheriff's Deputy with Valencia County and City Police Officer with Deming Police Department. Currently serve as: Adjunct Instructor for the Louisiana State University National Center for Biomedical Reach and Training (NCBRT) conducting training throughout the United States and its territories in areas from Emergency Management, School and Community Safety, and Law Enforcement; and Adjunct Instructor for the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
3. Elena Giacci (At Large, 2022): Anti Sexual and Domestic violence training specialist and advocate with over 33 years' experience in the Violence Against Women field. As past Chair of the Albuquerque Mayors Anti Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, she and task force members created the first Albuquerque Police Department National Model for Limited English Policies. Was co-investigator in the research study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development entitled "Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence, Reproductive Coercion, and Reproductive Health Among American Indian and Alaska Native Women: A Narrative Interview Study", published by Journal of Women's Health, 2022.
4. Dianne Layden (District 5, 2021): Ph.D. in American Studies with primary research interest in violence; over 20 years management experience in business, government and higher education; Bernalillo County Personnel Director and Assistant County Manager for Labor Relations in 1970's; served on Foothills Community Policing Council in 2014- 2017; member of Bernalillo County Community Support Subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Initiative.
5. Matthew Ray (District 1, 2024): Law Enforcement Officer with over 18 years of experience, including three years as a BCSO Deputy from 2006-2008. Specialized training and experience investigating government fraud, waste, abuse, and employee misconduct. Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) responsible for reviewing policies, programs, and operations, and offering recommendations for improvements in government accountability and efficiency.
6. W. James Stewart (District 4, 2022): Retired from the US Army in 2003 as a Colonel, having served for over 31 years in a variety of Intelligence roles, with a final assignment as Deputy J2 (Intelligence) at the US Central Command. Subsequently served as an Adjunct Instructor for the Texas A&M Engineering Service, conducting training exercises throughout Texas designed to assist local jurisdictions with emergency management planning and response. Completed professional career with an 8-year stint as the Chief Deputy Sheriff for the Brazos County Sheriff's Office, a mid-sized agency in central Texas.
7. Debbie Strongin, Vice Chair (At Large, 2020): Attorney with background in criminal and civil practice, including criminal investigations and prosecutions as Special Assistant Attorney General - NY State Office of Special Prosecutor Investigating Corruption in the NYC Criminal Justice System, criminal defense, copyright, real estate, immigration and voting rights.
8. William J. Walker (District 2, 2024) Retired in 2015 as Battalion Commander with BCF&RD, after working for over 27 years in Bernalillo County Government, including as: Captain, Lieutenant, Firefighter and Volunteer Firefighter with BCF&RD; Accounting Officer in Bernalillo County Treasurer's Office; Senior Accountant in Bernalillo County Finance Office; seat on Promotional Board for Bernalillo County Metropolitan Jail. Licensed in New Mexico as Emergency Medical Technician for over 20 years. B.A. Business Administration NMHU.
9. Michael Wismer (At Large, 2020): Retired Security Division Leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory and former County Commissioner in Los Alamos with over 40 years' experience in

security, law enforcement, background investigations, public policy, community engagement and volunteer activities.

Former SOARB members Debi Dodge and Joseph López left the Board in 2024 after, respectively, four and two years of service. SOARB thanks both of them for their service.

Section VIII: SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Behavioral Health: Dodge, Layden
2. Review of Standard Operating Procedures: Stewart, Strongin
3. Public Outreach: Jewell, Stewart, Strongin, assisted by Bernalillo County Communications Coordinator Estevan Vásquez
4. Annual Report: all SOARB members, Strongin (coordinator)
5. Outreach to BCC: all SOARB members, primary responsibility: Giacci, Stewart
6. Follow up on BCSO's plans to let law enforcement personnel focus on law enforcement duties by transferring certain administrative duties to civilian personnel, including creation of a third Crime Analyst position, and an Accountability Manager position to help identify related hiring and funding needs: Wismer
7. Orientation for new SOARB members: Stewart, Strongin
8. Investigate alternate SOARB meeting venues focusing on underserved areas: Primary responsibility: Giacci, assisted by Ray and Stewart
9. BCSO enforcement of Red Flag Laws: Wismer, Layden

Section IX: BCSO'S ENHANCEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES BY TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES TO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

In an effort to reduce violent crime in Bernalillo County, Sheriff Allen has set a goal of putting additional deputies on routine patrol to make their response times to calls for service as rapid as possible. At this time, Sheriff Allen's stated goal is to consistently field 110 to 115 deputies for patrol duties on each shift. In order to achieve that number, Sheriff Allen is in the process of transferring certain administrative duties from deputies to civilian administrative personnel, including seeking funding from the BCC to create a third civilian Crime Analyst position and a new civilian Accountability Manager position. Sheriff Allen plans to enhance BCSO's law enforcement capabilities by continuing to look for actions and opportunities that may be handled by civilian rather than law enforcement staff in the future. SOARB supports this initiative and recommends that the BCC fund these positions when possible.

Section X: NM'S RED FLAG LAW: ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION

In 2020, New Mexico became the 19th state to enact a "Red Flag Law." The Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act (NMSA §§ 40-17-1 et seq.) (also called the "ERFPO Act") took effect in May 2020. The Red Flag Law is designed to temporarily restrict firearm access to individuals deemed to be a risk to themselves or others; it was born from a desire to reduce gun violence, the theory being that shooters often show signs to those around them that an imminent threat exists.

A proceeding seeking an ERFPO must be initiated by a complaint made to a law enforcement agency or district attorney by a “Reporting Party” – i.e., an individual or entity that has credible information about the situation. The law enforcement agency is then responsible for preparing and filing a petition with the District Court. If the District Court finds that the petition establishes probable cause, then it will issue an ERFPO for a time period depending on the particular facts of each case.

Unfortunately, per the New Mexico Extreme Risk Task Force 2024 Annual Report⁴, applications for Extreme Risk Firearm Protection orders were infrequent in the first partial year (2020) and first two full years (2021 and 2022) following the ERFPO’s passage. The under-utilization of the Red Flag Law is likely due to multiple factors, including: the public’s lack of awareness of the Red Flag Law, and the reluctance of some law enforcement agencies (not including BCSO under Sheriff Allen) to initiate proceedings under the law. Notably, Sheriff Allen affirmed his support for New Mexico’s Red Flag Law when used properly at SOARB’s September 13, 2024 meeting. In addition, Sheriff Allen has been instrumental in assisting the New Mexico Attorney General in leading efforts to strengthen and clarify the current Red Flag Law, including development of a state-wide training program for law enforcement personnel.

SOARB recognizes the importance that both members of the public and law enforcement officers understand that if there is a dangerous individual, including an individual who may be suffering from an acute mental health issue, and those persons have access to a firearm that there is a Red Flag Law on the books that could be a tool in preventing extreme violence. Accordingly, SOARB recommends that the Bernalillo County Commission look for opportunities for the Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health to partner with the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and law enforcement agencies to find ways to educate the public about the potential protections offered by the Red Flag Law, including the conditions and circumstances that might call for the use of an ERFPO.

Section XI: OCTOBER 26, 2024 SOARB LISTENING SESSION AT THE SOUTH VALLEY MULTI-PURPOSE SENIOR CENTER

In an effort to offer a forum for members of the community to share their comments about BCSO, SOARB held a Listening Session at the South Valley Multi-Purpose Senior Center on October 26, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. There were approximately 30 attendees, 12 of whom made comments, some speaking for themselves and others for organizations. The majority of the comments focused on juvenile crime and Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman’s proposed changes to the New Mexico Children’s Code. Many of the attendees who spoke voiced concern about over criminalizing youth behavior and instead suggested allocating more resources for mental health and restorative youth justice programs. Most attendees were complimentary of BCSO’s presence in the schools; some expressed a desire to see more individualized engagement. Specifically, many of the attendees who were students, teachers, and Albuquerque Public School Board members suggested BCSO’s participation in large assemblies at schools was not as productive as smaller settings where students can participate in the discussion. Some of the teachers present highlighted the negative perception youth often have of law enforcement and recommended

⁴ See <https://www.dps.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

BCSO engage more directly with them. Both teachers and students present at the meeting were appreciative of BCSO's School Resource Officers (**SROs**) and recommended more resources and training be made available to them. SOARB has conveyed the participants' comments to BCSO. SOARB members Giacci, Ray and Stewart attended the Listening Session.⁵

Section XII: ACTIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF SOARB'S MISSION

Every SOARB meeting has allowed for the public to comment and observe via email, letter, video and/or phone connection, and starting in October 2022, by in-person attendance at meetings as well. To encourage the widest possible public participation, SOARB has also instituted procedures to accommodate those members of the public who wish to comment anonymously. SOARB's efforts to maximize public outreach have included the following during calendar year 2024:

1. Thanks to County Communications Specialist Estevan Vásquez:
 - a. Throughout 2024, Chair Jewell, with the assistance of Communications Coordinator Estevan Vásquez, has discussed SOARB's activities in interviews with TV, radio and print media.
 - b. SOARB's homepage is available to all on the Bernalillo County website at: <https://www.bernco.gov/boards-commissions/sheriffs-office-advisory-and-review-board/>, and
 - c. SOARB meeting videos are available for on-demand viewing on SOARB's homepage and on YouTube at: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmASwHEEDkUNRANAjXsQLPt6gr-S0xhg>
2. Dianne Layden's interview by New Mexico in Focus producer Jeff Proctor concerning SOARB's history and mission was broadcast by NMPBS.
3. On June 12, 2024, SOARB held a community listening session at the Patrick J. Baca Public Library, for the purpose of listening to any comments members of the community cared to share concerning BCSO and then conveying such comments to BCSO. Unfortunately, despite efforts to publicize this meeting, there was no community attendance.
4. On October 26, 2024, SOARB held a Listening Session at the South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center to listen to comments concerning BCSO from members of the community and to convey such comments to BCSO. (*See discussion in Section XI of this Report*).

⁵For more on the Listening Session, see SOARB's 11/08/2024 meeting at <https://www.bernco.gov/boards-commissions/sheriffs-office-advisory-and-review-board/> and Attachment 2

Section XIII: ISSUES FOR FUTURE REVIEW BY SOARB

Continue to investigate and implement ways to encourage direct give and take with members of the community, BCSO and BCC including:

1. Hold SOARB meetings and listening sessions at venues throughout the County, including in the three BCSO Area Commands (South Valley, North Valley and East Mountains);
2. Maximize SOARB's community outreach efforts, including taking full advantage of the skills and guidance of County Communications Coordinator Estevan Vásquez to refine and implement SOARB's public outreach;
3. Continue to work cooperatively with BCSO, particularly in areas where SOARB can be a force multiplier in reviewing and, where appropriate, providing advice on BCSO's policies, practices and procedures.
4. Continue to enhance SOARB's communication and interaction with BCC throughout the year.
5. Follow-up with BCSO on recommendations from Listening Session attendees that it would be productive for School Resource Officers (**SROs**) to engage in small-group interactions with students.

Section XV: CONCLUSION

The members of SOARB look forward to continuing to pursue SOARB's mission in 2025, and to continuing its cooperative interaction with the public, BCSO and BCC.

ATTACHMENT 1 - THE ORDINANCE

BERNALILLO COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-21

1 Chapter 50

2 ARTICLE V. – BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW
3 BOARD

4
5 Sec. 50-79. - Short title.

6 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Sheriff’s Office Advisory and Review
7 Ordinance."

8 Sec. 50-80. - Purpose and intent.

9 (a) It is the purpose of this article to improve public transparency and accountability with
10 respect to the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office, by providing robust opportunities for
11 community engagement, analysis and review of the Office’s policies, practices, procedures,
12 and provide advice to the Board of Bernalillo County Commissioners, the Sheriff’s Office,
13 and the public.

14 (b) This article is promulgated pursuant to the county’s authority under the New Mexico
15 Constitution and statutes. The board of county commissioners’ authority includes those
16 powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, and improve the
17 morals, order, comfort and convenience of its inhabitants.

18 (c) Any approvals granted under this article do not authorize or legalize any conduct, activity,
19 or business that is illegal under city, county, state or federal law.

20 Sec. 50-81. – Advisory.

21 (a) *Advisory board.*

22 (1) *Creation of advisory board.* An advisory board is hereby created, in compliance
23 with section 2-432 of the Bernalillo County Ordinances, and is designed to
24 provide ongoing analysis and review of the Sheriff Office’s policies, practices,
25 procedures, and provide advice to the Board of Bernalillo County Commissioners,
26 the Sheriff’s Office, and the public

27 (2) *Advisory function.* This board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of
28 County Commissioners and the Sheriff’s Office.

29 (3) *Members.* The board shall be made up of nine members. Each Commissioner
30 shall appoint one member from their district and four shall be at-large members
31 selected by the commission from the pool of all applicants. The terms of all
32 members shall be four years. Preferably, the four at-large members will have
33 experience, knowledge, or skill in at least one of the following areas: community
34 service, military service, public safety service, criminal law, civil rights, or law
35 enforcement research. Annually, at the first meeting of the calendar year, the
36 board shall elect its chair and vice-chair.

CONTINUATION PAGE 2, ORDINANCE 2020-21.

- 1 (4) *Process for selection of members.* A notice of vacant advisory board positions
2 will be posted in the appropriate place on the county's webpage, inviting
3 interested persons to apply and submit a resume to the county manager's office.
4 Additionally, the County shall prepare and distribute this notice for posting at all
5 county recreation facilities and other facilities it owns and operates. Applications
6 and resumes shall be forwarded to all commissioners. The Commission will strive
7 for equity in demographics and geography across the county.
- 8 (5) *Staff.* The County Manager will consult with the Board to determine staff support
9 needed to facilitate their work.
- 10 (6) *Participation by the Sheriff.* The Sheriff, or a senior ranking member of the
11 Sheriff's Office, selected by the Sheriff, shall be invited to attend and participate
12 in all the meetings of the board, and shall have the privilege of the floor, without
13 voting rights.
- 14 (7) *Meeting frequency.* The advisory board shall meet at least once per quarter.
- 15 (8) *Open Meetings Act.* The board shall comply with the requirements of the New
16 Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1 et seq.
- 17 (9) *Duties of the board*
18 On its own initiative, or at the request of the Board County Commissioners or the
19 Sheriff, without interfering with the Sheriff's investigative function the Board
20 shall:
- 21 a. complete its own investigation of the Sheriff's Office's operational
22 policies, practices, processes and procedures.
- 23 b. hold public meetings to solicit public input regarding the Sheriff's
24 Office's policies, procedures, services and programs. Establish rules and
25 procedures to ensure that its meetings provide for public comment and
26 when necessary, include meetings focused solely on public comment.
- 27 c. communicate with and request information from the Sheriff, including but
28 not limited to completed disciplinary actions, finalized internal affairs
29 investigations, and operating policies to complete its review, analysis and
30 investigations.
- 31 d. determine whether an independent expert audit or review of the Sheriff's
32 Office's operational policies, process and procedures is required.
- 33 (i) If a majority of the board determines that an expert audit or
34 review of the Sheriff Office's operational process, policies or
35 procedures is required, they may authorize audits or reviews to be
36 conducted by independent experts to analyze, solicit input and
37 make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners
38 and the Sheriff.
- 39 (ii) Consult with the county manager about the availability of
40 funding. within her scope authorization, or from the Commission,

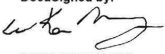
CONTINUATION PAGE 3, ORDINANCE 2020-21.

- 1 and the procurement process for any audits or reviews to be
- 2 conducted by independent experts.
- 3 (iii) Hire experts through a competitive procurement process.
- 4 e. review, analyze, and where appropriate solicit additional input, and make
- 5 advisory recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and
- 6 the Sheriff on the Sheriff's Office's operational policies and procedures
- 7 that affect the community or make recommendations to create additional
- 8 operational policies and procedures affecting the community.
- 9 (i) Seek the input of the Sheriff prior to completing any of its
- 10 recommendations made pursuant to the duties defined in this
- 11 section.
- 12 (ii) Request the advice and assistance of the Bernalillo county
- 13 attorney about the process and requirements for making referrals or
- 14 reports to other governmental enforcement bodies.
- 15 f. prepare and distribute an annual report to the Board of Commissioners and
- 16 Sheriff at the Board's last meeting in January, summing its activities of
- 17 the prior year and its plans for the coming year.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BERNALILLO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO this 22nd day of September, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

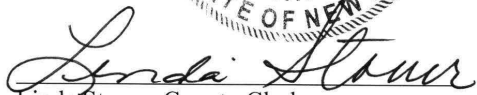
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney

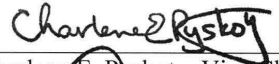


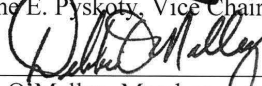
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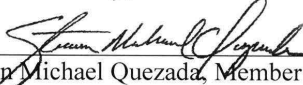

Linda Stover, County Clerk


VOTED 'NO'

Lonnie C. Talbert, Chair


Charlene E. Pyskoty, Vice Chair


Debbie O'Malley, Member


Steven Michael Quezada, Member


James M. Collie, Member

ATTACHMENT 2 – LISTENING SESSION NOTES

The Board unanimously approved inclusion of the Listening Session summary provided in Section XI of this Report. At the request of Listening Session organizer Ms. Giacci, the Board consented to inclusion of her own additional notes, set out below verbatim:

In an effort to reach out directly to the community, the SOARB held a Listening Session at the South Valley Multi-Purpose Senior Center on October 26, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. There were approximately 30 attendees, 12 (40%) people expressing their opinions and made comments both as individuals and organizations. This assembly was to focus on issues affecting underserved communities. The gathering provided Bernalillo residents with an opportunity to share their lived experiences and perspectives regarding the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). They were encouraged to express their thoughts, concerns, gratitude, ideas, or observations related to the Sheriff's Office. The session provided a respectful and open forum for public comment.

Many of the comments focused on juvenile crime and to the New Mexico Children's Code. Many of the attendees who spoke were concerned about criminalizing youth behavior and instead suggested more resources for mental health and restorative youth justice programs. A few attendees were complimentary of BCSO's presence in the schools but expressed a desire to see Sheriff Allen individualized engagement. Specifically, many of the attendees who were students, teachers, and Albuquerque Public School board members suggested BCSO's participation in large assemblies at schools was not productive as smaller settings where students could participate in the discussion. Some of the teachers present highlighted the negative perception youth often have of law enforcement and recommended Sheriff Allen engage more directly with them. Two teachers were appreciative of the BCSO's School Resource Officers (SROs) others recommended more training resources and instruction on diversity. *Below are the many of the audience comments*

1. The majority expressed concern in the proposed changes; by the Sheriff in the children's code regarding the punitive delinquency component. Only one person spoke in favor of the entire children's code and believed it was necessary and supported it.
2. Two areas specifically mentioned revising the definition for a neglected child and preventing child removal, when poverty is the only issue, and removing the presumption of abandonment termination of parental rights in abuse or neglect cases was overwhelming supported by the majority.
3. Youth representing transforming guns into something more positive (vases magnets etc.) buyback programs. Would like to see more money going into future plans. Youth shared multiple tragedies effecting friends and family involving guns. Continue to look into preventing gun violence that isn't always punitive
4. A resident felt that the presence of BCSO in their neighborhood was beneficial.
5. Many spoke that although BCSO attending large auditorium assemblies at schools were not useful or worthwhile. One person was supportive of the large assemblies. The belief was to have the Sheriff visit individual classrooms.
6. Numerous teachers welcomed the Sheriff to be in their classrooms and felt that would be the best way to communicate with youth
7. Working with youth needs to be restorative not "school to jail" pipeline
8. Need more youth engagement and have them to be be part of task forces in Bernalillo County. A suggestion was made to have youth have their own task force teams.
9. Native American and children with disabilities often get unfairly labeled by law enforcement. Need to be trained in working with south valley communities
10. SOARB group should have cultural training
11. BCSO should have better diversity training
12. Participate in "Culture Keepers" organization
13. DA Bregman needs to be engaged and "quit using scare tactics"
14. BCSO should be trained in de-escalation with youth
15. Really work with Restorative justice youth programs
16. Don't send Kids to MDC
17. BCSO has an opportunity to be different working with youth rather than always punishing them
18. Youth is our future investment