



COUNTY of VENTURA

**PUBLIC SAFETY RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
1911 WILLIAMS DRIVE, OXNARD, CA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Topic: PSREAG Meeting
Location: Ventura County Behavioral Health
Large Training Room
1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA

Members of the public may join in person or by Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615382699>

SUBMITTING WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public who wish to make either general public comment or comment on a specific agenda item prior to the meeting may do so by **9:00 AM on the day of the meeting** in one of the following ways:

- a. Completing the public comment form at the bottom of the PSREAG webpage:
venturacounty.gov/PSREAGcomment
- b. Emailing belonging@venturacounty.gov. Please include the following information in your email:
 - i. Meeting date
 - ii. Agenda item number and title (if applicable)
 - iii. Your full name (optional).

During the public comment period, all comments received by the deadline will be submitted for the record.

OPENING

- 1. CALL TO ORDER (5 MIN)**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Spotlight a Group Norm
 - c. Roll Call & Confirm Quorum
 - d. Review Agenda
- 2. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES (5 MIN)**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND/OR FOR OTHER ITEMS WITHIN PSREAG SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION (10 MIN).**
 - a. PSREAG members, please reserve your comments for specific agenda items or for the allotted time for Member and Staff Comments at the end of the agenda.
 - b. All public comments regarding public safety and racial equity are welcome and encouraged. However, please note that the PSREAG does not investigate complaints regarding individual incidents involving law enforcement. Formal complaints should be submitted to the involved law enforcement agency.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 4. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY COUNSEL REGARDING PSREAG JURISDICTION (15 MIN)**
 - a. Presentation by County Counsel
- 5. AD HOC UPDATES DISCUSSION (20 MIN)**
 - a. Remark(s) by ad hoc member(s)
 - b. Member Discussion
- 6. POSSIBLE ACTION TO REMOVE COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) MEMBER DIVERITY COLLECTIVE DUE TO ATTENDANCE (5 MIN)**
 - a. Member Discussion
 - b. Possible vote
- 7. PSREAG WEBSITE UPDATES (10 MIN)**
 - a. Presentation by C&B Staff
 - b. Member Discussion
- 8. BROWN ACT UPDATES (5 MIN)**
 - a. Presentation by C&B Staff
- 9. DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW PSREAG MEMBERS, IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, MAY RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS (NO ACTION) (20 MIN)**
 - a. Member Discussion

10. CHAIR REPORT & CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 MIN)

- a. Presentation by Co-Chairs
- b. Group Discussion

11. MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)

- a. Opportunity for announcements from members and staff

12. ADJOURN

If new materials about an agenda item are shared after the agenda packet is posted, they will be added to the Ventura County PSREAG website at venturacounty.gov/PSREAG before the meeting—subject to staff’s ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.

If you need language interpretation or help with an audio, visual, or other disability so you can review an agenda or take part in a Ventura County Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group meeting, please contact the County Executive Office at least 48 hours before the meeting to ask for support. You can request help in any of these ways:

- By email: belonging@venturacounty.gov
- By phone: (805) 654-2605
- By mail: Community & Belonging Division, County Executive Office, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740



COUNTY of VENTURA

PUBLIC SAFETY RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1911 WILLIAMS DRIVE, OXNARD, CA TUESDAY,

JANUARY 20, 2026

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Topic: PSREAG Meeting

Location: Ventura County Behavioral Health
Large Training Room
1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA

Members of the public may join in person or by Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Webinar:

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 - i. Meeting date
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 - iii. Your full name (optional).

During the public comment period, all comments received by the deadline will be submitted for the record.

OPENING

1. CALL TO ORDER (5 MIN)

- **Called to order at 5:40PM**
- Welcome
- Spotlight a Group Norm
- Roll Call & Confirm Quorum
 - i. Member Organizations present and eligible to count towards quorum**
 - 1. Black Lawyers of Ventura County, Damon Jenkins**
 - 2. Conejo Valley Interfaith Association, Bob Bland & Willie Lubka**
 - 3. MICOP, Vanessa Teran**
 - 4. One Step A La Vez, Maria Robles**
 - 5. Santa Paula Latino Townhall, Christina Eilar**
 - 6. Santa Paula Police Department, Chief Aguilar**
 - 7.VC Probation, Chief Ron Miller & Candice Modica**
 - 8.VC Public Defender, Claudia Bautista**
 - ii. Quorum Established**
 - iii. Others present**
 - 1. Sarah Garcia**
 - 2. Ashlyn Bryson-Beane**
 - 3. Dr. Gabriela Cázares**
- Review Agenda

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES (5 MIN)

- **December 4, 2025 minutes approved by consensus.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND/OR FOR OTHER ITEMS WITHIN PSREAG SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION (10 MIN).

- PSREAG members, please reserve your comments for specific agenda items or for the allotted time for Member and Staff Comments at the end of the agenda.
- All public comments regarding public safety and racial equity are welcome and encouraged. However, please note that the PSREAG does not investigate complaints regarding individual incidents involving law enforcement. Formal complaints should be submitted to the involved law enforcement agency.

No public comments received.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. **REVIEW OF NEW AGENDA-SETTING PROCESS (5 MIN)**
 - Presentation by C&B Staff

5. **POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS (10 MIN)** ○ Member Discussion
 - **Amendment to change quorum from “8” to “50%+1” passed by consensus.**

6. **AD HOC UPDATES DISCUSSION (5 MIN)**
 - Remark(s) by ad hoc member(s)
 - Member Discussion

7. **POSSIBLE ACTION TO REMOVE COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) MEMBER DUE TO ATTENDANCE (10 MIN)**
 - Member Discussion
 - Possible Vote
 - **Possible vote tabled to future meeting.**

8. **POSSIBLE ACTION TO ESTABLISH AN ADHOC COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF COMMUNITYBASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) MEMBER(S) (10 MIN)**
 - Member Discussion
 - Possible Vote
 - **Recruitment Ad Hoc established by consensus.**
 - **Ad Hoc Members:**
 - **Public Defender**
 - **Santa Paula Latino Town Hall**
 - **One Step A La Vez**

9. **2026 FOCUS AREA SELECTION & POSSIBLE ACTION TO CREATE NEW AD HOCS (45 MIN)**
 - Presentation by C&B Staff
 - Member Discussion
 - Possible Vote(s) to establish ad hoc committees on:
 - i. Community-informed public safety strategies re: immigration enforcement
 - i. Bylaw Review & Amendment Recommendations
 - ii. PSREAG Communication Efforts
 - **Item tabled to future meeting**

10. **CHAIR REPORT & CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 MIN)**

- Presentation by Co-Chairs
- Group Discussion

11.MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)

- Opportunity for announcements from members and staff

12.ADJOURN

a. Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm

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PSREAG MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 3. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND/OR FOR OTHER ITEMS WITHIN PSREAG SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION



New submission from the PSREAG Public Comments Form

From PSREAG Public Comments Form <PSREAG.PublicCommentsForm@venturacounty.gov>

Date Tue 2/3/2026 8:05 PM

To Community & Belonging <Belonging@venturacounty.gov>

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@venturacounty.gov.

The following information has been submitted via the PSREAG Public Comments Form on venturacounty.gov:

All public comments regarding public safety and racial equity are welcome and encouraged. However, please note that the PSREAG does not investigate complaints regarding individual incidents involving law enforcement.

Name

Art Mortell

Email

art@artmortell.com

I would like to... [raise concerns / inform you of new information / provide supporting evidence] regarding:

I would like to discuss the challenges within our community, such as housing, trafficking, poverty, education, culture, including gang culture, corruption, racial profiling, prejudice, abuse of power, homelessness,, the mentally and physically disabled, incarcerated adults and juveniles, the need for prevention and rehabilitation, pollution, including hazardous sites, obstruction of justice, food distribution, violation of civil rights, and political conflict that is impacting the undocumented, which includes children working in agriculture. Last year, I donated \$100,000 to 40 nonprofits, most within Ventura County, taught critical thinking through chess every Friday afternoon for 18 months at Juvenile Hall, lectured at Cal Lutheran University, Ventura College, Channel Islands University, Pepperdine in Malibu and the Navy and am offering my financial support and presentations to those organizations that will be attending on February 5th.



PSREAG
Website Updates
PSREAG Briefing



Feasible

- 1. Subscriber List** for public to receive agenda packets, meeting reminders, etc.
 - Prep: Training for C&B by CEOIT
 - Tentative Launch Date: April 2026
- 2. Meeting Recordings** posted online
 - Timeline: April 2026



**Feasible
With
Conditions**

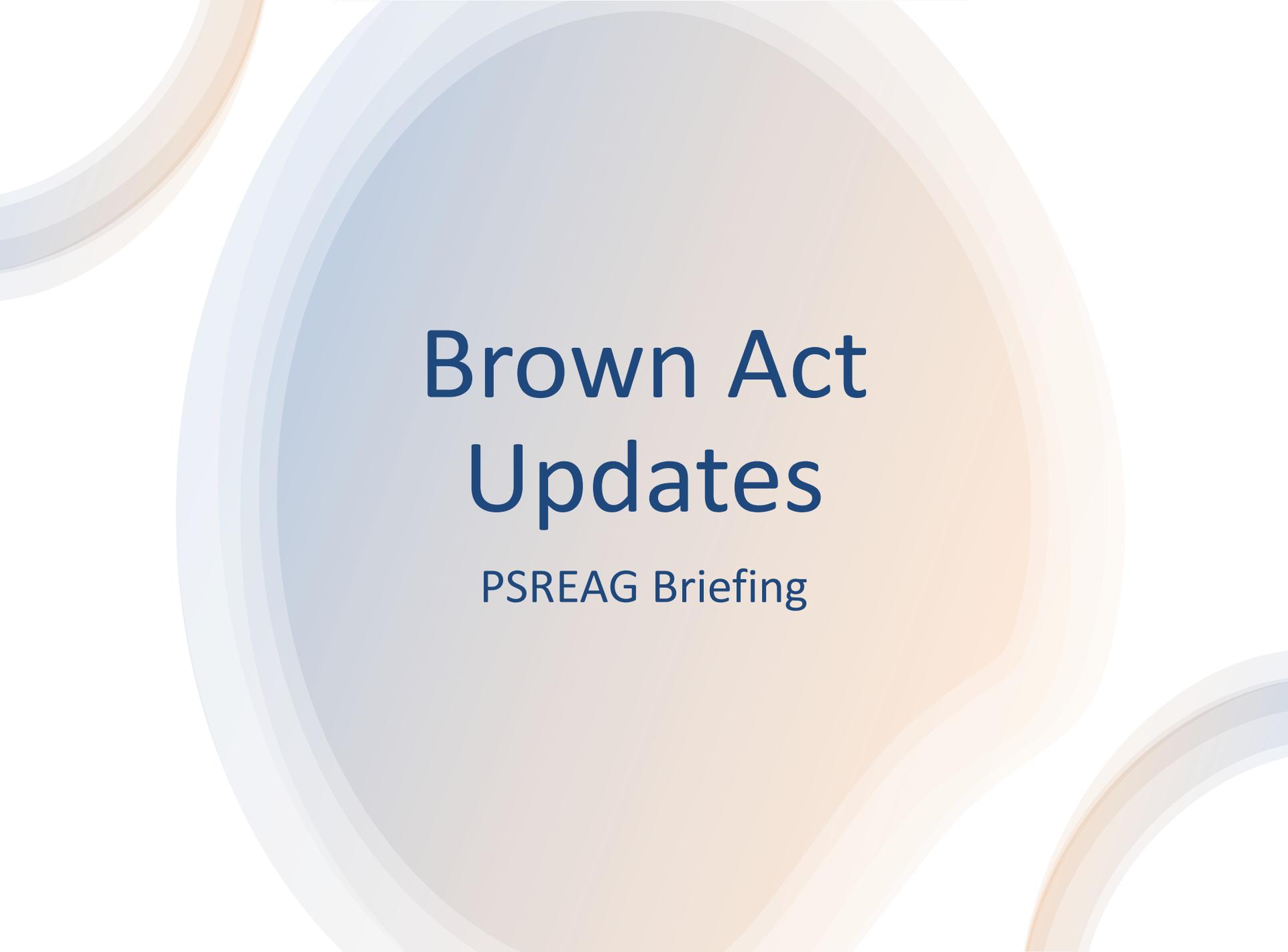
Monthly updates on landing page

- PSREAG member assigned to provide updates?
- Establish a timeline with one month lead time



Not Feasible

- **Blog & Event Calendar**
 - Brown Act Serial Meeting Violation
 - Limited staffing capacity
- **Livestreaming meetings**
 - Limited staffing capacity
- **FAQ & Questions Submission Form**
 - Limited capacity to manage and ensure accurate, up-to-date information.



Brown Act Updates

PSREAG Briefing



Brown Act Purpose

- Ensures transparency, public trust, and legitimacy by requiring:
 - Public notice
 - Public comment
 - Public access

Ad Hoc Committees & the Brown Act



Conduct focused, approved work



Develop drafts and recommendations



Cannot make decisions for PSREAG



Must report back in noticed meetings



Clarifications & Reminders

- Serial communications are prohibited
- Email and text discussions among a quorum are not allowed
- Only agenda items may be discussed during meetings.
- Agenda timelines must be followed
 - min. 72 hours prior to regular meeting
 - min. 24 hours prior to special meeting



Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Email chains moving toward agreement
- Side conversations outside meetings
- Speaking as PSREAG without authorization
- Discussing topics in meetings that have not been agendized, even if they are within scope



Brown Act 2026 Updates

- New designations for different types of public meetings.
 - PSREAG = Subsidiary Body
- Applicable updates:
 - Hybrid meetings are optional, not required
 - Just Cause exemption remains 2x/year; emergency circumstance exemption eliminated
 - Copy of Brown Act provided to all members
- All other requirements in the update do not apply.

PSREAG AGENDA

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 9. DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW PSREAG MEMBERS, IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, MAY RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

(NO ACTION)

From: Robert Bland <dr.rab2@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 12:44 PM

To: Garcia, Sarah <SarahR.Garcia@venturacounty.gov>; Garcia, Sarah <SarahR.Garcia@venturacounty.gov>

Subject: Public Comment Input

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@venturacounty.gov.

Sarah,

Here (attached) are my recommendations regarding Public Comments as we discussed in the KYR Subcommittee Meeting today.

If I owe you anything else let me know.

Bob

**PSREAG AGENDA
FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

AGENDA ITEM: 9. DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW PSREAG MEMBERS, IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, MAY RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS (NO ACTION)

Public Comment

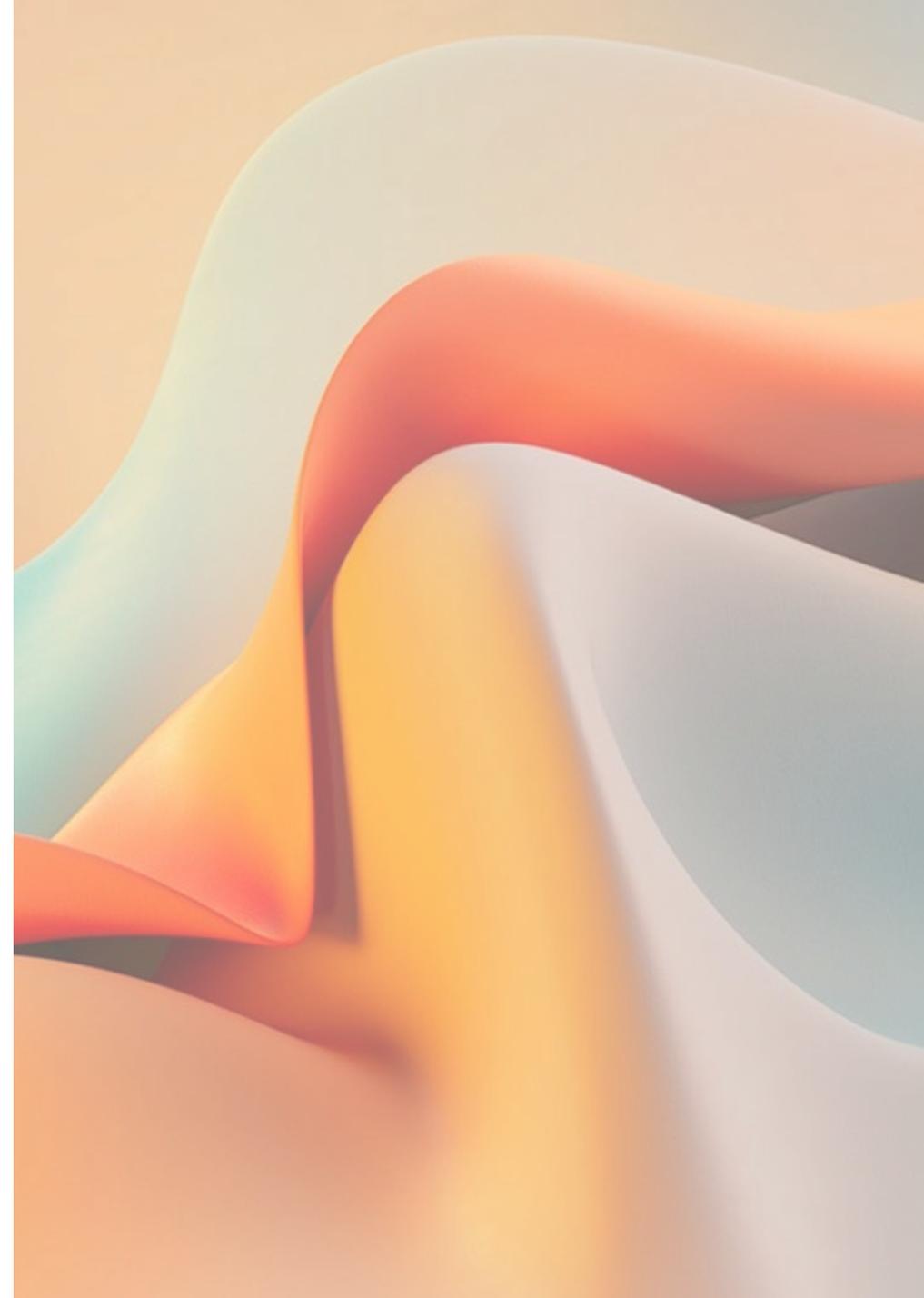
1. As an advisory committee whose job is to bring the concerns of the community to public safety officials and to the Board of Supervisors, I believe that we could improve the way we handle public comments. I think it is shameful how people come to us and pour their hearts out about wrongs they see going on in the community, only to have us completely disregard their concerns.
2. I recognize the restrictions we have about discussing items not on the agenda and the time restrictions we have in terms of what we are able to cover in a given meeting. However, I think there are ways to both honor those restrictions and still be responsive to the public that we are supposed to represent.
3. One suggestion would be to have a couple of representatives of the PSREAG conduct an in person follow up with the person making the public comment following the meeting. During this conversation the representatives could accomplish several things
 - a. First and foremost they could assure the person making the comment that they have been heard and taken seriously
 - b. The representatives could clarify the limitations on the authority of the PSREAG and explain what the group can and cannot do
 - c. The representatives could advise the person if there are other ways to address their concerns such as filing a complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agency.
 - d. Following the in-person interview the representatives could assess if this complaint might be indicative of a broader concern that should be considered by the PSREAG as a whole.
4. This is, of course, not the only way to address this issue but I think that as a community based advisory group we need to find a way to take public input more seriously.

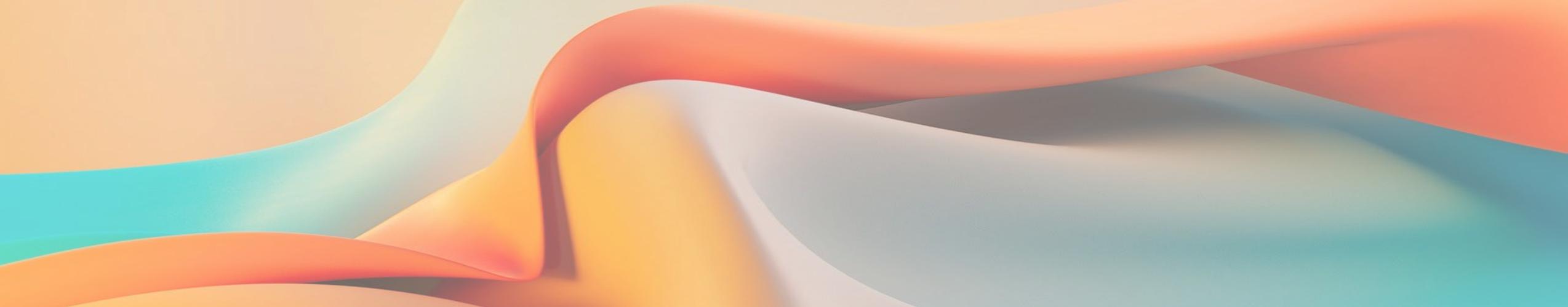


A Proposal for Handling Public Comments

The Issue

- **Community members come to PSREAG seeking help.**
- **They go to the trouble of preparing a detailed description of their issue and presenting it to PSREAG**
- **PSREAG listens politely and then ignores the issue totally with no feedback to the complainant.**
- **Every time that happens PSREAG loses credibility in the community**





A Proposed Solution

Whenever PSREAG receives public comment. Select one or more members to follow up with the person who originated the complaint and report back at the next meeting



Goals of Follow Up

- 1. Let the person know they have been heard**
- 2. Manage expectations by explaining the purpose and limitations of the PSREAG**
- 3. Advise the person of other avenues to address their issues (eg complaint process)**
- 4. Analyze the issues raised to determine if they might be indicative of a broader trend that should be addressed by the PSREAG**
- 5. Report Back to PSREAG at next meeting**

PSREAG MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: 10. CHAIR REPORT & CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair's Report

Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group
County of Ventura

Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Agenda Item: Chair's Report

Presenters: Don Aguilar and Christina Eilar, Co-Chairs

Action: Informational Only — No Discussion / No Action

Purpose

The Chair's Report provides informational updates to the Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group, including items submitted for consideration, the status or disposition of such items, upcoming meetings, events, or trainings, administrative or procedural notices, and other relevant matters within the Group's subject matter jurisdiction that do not require discussion or action by the Group at the time of presentation.

Chair's Report

1. Agenda Item Submissions

The chairs received the following request(s) for agenda consideration:

Request for agenda consideration related to immigration enforcement impacts, civilian oversight, and public safety funding and accountability.

Message in full attached is attached to the chair report.

Request reviewed and responded to by County Counsel regarding the scope of PSREAG authority.

Suggestion to improve responsiveness to public comments, including post-meeting follow-up with speakers to acknowledge concerns, explain PSREAG's limitations, provide referrals where appropriate, and identify potential systemic issues within the scope of PSREAG consideration.

2. Upcoming Meetings, Events, or Trainings

No items to report at this time.

3. Informational Announcements

No items to report at this time.

Agenda-Setting Meeting Notice

The Co-Chairs and County staff will convene an agenda-setting meeting on **Friday, February 13, 2026** to develop the agenda for the next regular meeting. Agenda requests should be submitted to staff by the close of business on **Thursday, February 12, 2026**, one day prior to the agenda-setting meeting.

Re: FW: PSREAG: PLEASE ADD THIS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS: Urgent Request to Place Sheriff & ICE Oversight, Budget Allocations, and Public Safety Concerns on PSREAG Agenda

From oxnard.lawtina <oxnard.lawtina@proton.me>

Date Fri 1/30/2026 10:28 AM

To Cazares, Gabriela <Gabriela.Cazares@venturacounty.gov>

Cc Barnes, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Barnes@venturacounty.gov>; Garcia, Sarah <SarahR.Garcia@venturacounty.gov>

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@venturacounty.gov.

Hello, please also add the following to the public comments for next week's meeting, since you all refuse to put the items the community groups request.

Dear County Counsel,

Thank you for your response regarding my request to the County Executive Office and the Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group (PSREAG).

I respectfully disagree with the characterization that the requested actions fall outside PSREAG's authority.

Resolution No. 20-126 establishes PSREAG as an advisory body tasked with fostering meaningful discussion and identifying public concerns related to policing policies and procedures, including matters of training, misconduct, and accountability. As an advisory group, PSREAG's role is not to enact policy, but to study, analyze, and recommend reforms to the Board of Supervisors.

My requests are fully consistent with that advisory function. Specifically:

- Recommending the establishment of civilian oversight is a policy recommendation, not an exercise of legislative authority.
- Identifying budget priorities related to community safety, trauma-informed services, and legal support is standard practice for advisory bodies.
- Proposing regular reporting mechanisms promotes transparency and accountability, which align with PSREAG's purpose.
- Review of law enforcement interaction with federal immigration authorities is directly related to policing practices and procedures, particularly in light of California law governing such cooperation.

Nothing in Resolution No. 20-126 prohibits PSREAG from recommending structural reforms, budget priorities, or accountability mechanisms to the Board. Advisory bodies across California routinely provide such guidance without exceeding their authority.

Further, while the County Executive Office serves as a facilitator, it also regularly transmits recommendations, prepares reports, and supports advisory bodies in communicating their findings to the Board. Preparing or presenting advisory recommendations is consistent with that role.

To be clear, I am not requesting that PSREAG or the CEO implement policy. I am requesting that they fulfill their advisory mandate by elevating community concerns and policy recommendations for Board consideration.

Public trust in public safety institutions depends on meaningful community participation, transparency, and responsiveness. Limiting PSREAG's role to narrow internal discussions undermines the intent of the Board's resolution and the County's stated commitment to racial equity.

I respectfully request that the County reconsider this position and allow PSREAG to engage fully in its advisory role by forwarding community-informed recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continued dialogue in service of public safety, equity, and accountability.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Valdez

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Thursday, January 29th, 2026 at 2:22 PM, Cazares, Gabriela
<Gabriela.Cazares@venturacounty.gov> wrote:

Dear Vanessa,

Thank you for your request. The referenced materials will be shared with the group at the next meeting.

If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

In Community,



Gabriela Cázares, PhD (she/her)
Community & Belonging Director

O: (805) 654-2953

C: (820) 732-6591

venturacounty.gov



From: oxnard.lawtina <oxnard.lawtina@proton.me>

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:35 AM

To: Barnes, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Barnes@venturacounty.gov>

Cc: Cazares, Gabriela <Gabriela.Cazares@venturacounty.gov>

Subject: Re: FW: PSREAG: PLEASE ADD THIS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS: Urgent Request to Place Sheriff & ICE Oversight, Budget Allocations, and Public Safety Concerns on PSREAG Agenda

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@venturacounty.gov.

Thank you,

Please add my initial email and Jeff's response to the public comments for next month's meeting.

-Vanessa la abogada

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 at 5:28 PM, Barnes, Jeffrey
<Jeffrey.Barnes@venturacounty.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Valdez:

This responds to your below message to Gabriela Cazares requesting that the County's Public Safety Racial Equity Group (PSREAG) and the County Executive Office take certain actions.

The PSREAG was formed based on direction provided by the Board of Supervisor in Resolution No. 20-126 dated November 10, 2020, whereby the Board: *"Pledges to collaborate with the County's law and justice agencies and the community to establish an advisory group to help foster meaningful discussion and to identify public concerns related to policing policies and procedures with regard to matters such as hiring, training, and misconduct."* Consequently, the PSREAG's role is purely advisory, discussion-oriented, and focused on policing practices and procedures. And the County Executive Office's role is to act as a facilitator for the PSREAG in carrying out its specified role.

Because your requested actions are outside of PSREAG's authority and/or are not consistent with the County Executive Office's role as the facilitator for PSREAG, they will not be taken.

Regards,

Jeff Barnes

Chief Assistant County Counsel

From: oxnard.lawtina <oxnard.lawtina@proton.me>

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 11:45 PM

To: Cazares, Gabriela <Gabriela.Cazares@venturacounty.gov>

Subject: PLEASE ADD THIS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS: Urgent Request to Place Sheriff & ICE Oversight, Budget Allocations, and Public Safety Concerns on PSREAG Agenda

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Dear Ms. Cazares,

On behalf of the Latinx Bar Association (LBA), I write to express deep concern about the safety and well-being of our Latina/o/x community in Ventura County due to ongoing immigration enforcement actions and law-enforcement practices that are causing trauma, fear, and harm.

Recent national events — including the fatal shooting of Renée Nicole Good by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in Minneapolis, Minnesota — have heightened fears within immigrant communities and around enforcement accountability. Reports, video documentation, and public outcry illustrate that this shooting has sparked protests and growing demands for federal agent accountability and transparency.

Locally, the continuous and visible ICE presence at the Ventura County Courthouse and other public spaces has created a climate of anxiety that discourages community members from accessing justice and essential services. The persistent enforcement presence has tangible impacts on family participation in court hearings and visitation, as noted in public comments previously submitted to PSREAG.

In light of these concerns, LBA formally and urgently requests that the following items be included as actionable agenda items for the upcoming PSREAG meeting:

1. Presentation by the County Executive Officer to the Board of Supervisors — Advocate for the establishment of a civilian oversight commission with jurisdiction over the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and federal immigration enforcement activities within county limits, including ICE interactions.
2. Actionable, Budget-Focused Recommendations — Identify specific budget allocations and measurable funding requests in the county budget that would support community safety, trauma-informed services, legal support for immigrant families, and culturally responsive community outreach.
3. Monthly Reporting & Public Accountability — Set a recurring agenda item where PSREAG reviews and reports on progress toward establishing accountability mechanisms and budget measures related to public safety and racial equity.

For more than a year, LBA has requested that the topic of civilian oversight for the Sheriff's Office be placed on PSREAG's agenda without meaningful action. It is no longer sufficient to defer these discussions — LBA now demands that PSREAG

elevate these issues with concrete budgetary and policy recommendations that can be carried forward to the Board of Supervisors.

We respectfully but urgently request that this email be made part of the minutes and these agenda items be scheduled for the next PSREAG meeting and that PSREAG leadership commit to working with community partners to ensure these policies and funds are advanced.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and your ongoing service to Ventura County.

Sincerely,
Vanessa B. Valdez, Esq. LBA President

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.