

Solano County Deputy Sheriff's Association

June 17th, 2025

Solano County Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Honorable Members of the Solano County Board of Supervisors,

The Solano County Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) is steadfast in its commitment to serving all citizens of Solano County, including those in the incorporated City of Vallejo. While we have a proud history of providing citizens of Vallejo exceptional service through various functions and have increasingly supported Vallejo due to staffing shortages at the Vallejo Police Department, we must respectfully oppose the proposed agreement between the Solano County Sheriff's Office and the City of Vallejo to provide law enforcement services.

The DSA firmly believes this proposal is detrimental to the Sheriff's Office, the citizens of unincorporated Solano County, the citizens of Vallejo, the City of Vallejo's financial interests, and the Vallejo Police Officer's Association (POA). The following outlines our concerns.

Impact on the Sheriff's Office

The proposed Vallejo contract mirrors the sworn staffing commitment of the existing Rio Vista contract—12 Deputy Sheriffs, 2 Sergeants, and 1 Lieutenant—despite Vallejo's population, of the proposed Sheriff's Office area of responsibility, being approximately 60,000 compared to Rio Vista's approximately 10,000. The initial Rio Vista contract strained our resources, leading to significant forced overtime and diminished morale among DSA members, effects that persist today. The Vallejo proposal, covering the high-call-volume period of 12 PM to 12 AM, would exacerbate these issues.

The suggestion to fill up to 20 full-time Deputy Sheriff positions with retired annuitants is unrealistic. First, this will require negotiations with the DSA. If agreed upon, when annuitants are unavailable due to time off, illness, injury, training, or other circumstances, DSA members will bear the burden through forced overtime or shift reassignments. This would also apply to absences in the Vallejo contract, further stretching our workforce. The increased call volume and priority calls in Vallejo will hinder our ability to maintain the Sheriff's Office's standard of professional and timely service, risking the Sheriff's Office reputation and our relationship with the community.

The DSA Board of Directors has surveyed our membership, and, over 90 percent of respondents oppose the current proposal to provide contracted law enforcement services to the City of Vallejo.

Impact on Unincorporated Solano County Citizens

Prioritizing staffing for Vallejo, as seen with Rio Vista, will reduce services for unincorporated Solano County. Reassignments from specialized bureaus or reduced patrol staffing will compromise our ability to deliver the high-quality service our citizens expect and erode community trust.

Impact on Vallejo Citizens

While Deputy Sheriffs would respond to calls and author reports in Vallejo, follow-up investigations would fall to the Vallejo Police Department. Differences in case management and communication between agencies risk cases being lost in transition, leaving crime victims underserved. This will undermine public confidence in law enforcement and damage the Sheriff's Office reputation in Vallejo.

Financial Implications for the City of Vallejo

The City of Vallejo's proposed \$11 million investment in this one-year contract is misguided. Funds would be better allocated to bolster the Vallejo Police Department, which has faced staffing challenges and declared a state of emergency nearly two years ago without significant investment. A substantial portion of the \$11 million would cover equipment and administrative costs, benefiting the City of Vallejo for only one year rather than providing long-term value to Vallejo. Investing in recruitment, retention, and working conditions at the Vallejo Police Department would yield more sustainable public safety improvements.

Impact on the Vallejo Police Officer's Association

The DSA values its long-standing, positive relationship with the Vallejo POA. Supporting this proposal undermines that partnership. The Vallejo Police Department is reportedly better staffed now than in recent years, reducing the need for such an extensive contract. The \$11 million could address the police department's staffing shortages, improve contract terms, and enhance recruitment and retention, directly benefiting Vallejo's officers and community.

Conclusion

The citizens of Vallejo deserve robust, reliable law enforcement services, and the DSA is committed to supporting them. However, the proposed agreement is unsustainable and risks harming multiple stakeholders. We urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this proposal and encourage the City of Vallejo to invest in its own police department. If contracted services are deemed necessary, they should be on a significantly smaller scale to avoid overextending resources.

We appreciate your consideration of our perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wallace

President, Solano County Deputy Sheriff's Association

