



County of Sonoma  
Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)  
**Community Advisory Council (CAC)**

**Resolution Regarding Social Media (Facebook) Post dated November 8, 2021  
by Sheriff Mark Essick on “Sonoma Sheriff” Official Government Facebook Page.**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) was hereby established to increase visibility for the public into the delivery by the sheriff-coroner of policing and corrections services, to provide community participation in the review and establishment of sheriff-coroner policies, procedures, practices, training, and initiatives, and to engage the public to better understand the role of IOLERO and of the sheriff-coroner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff’s Department Policy 322 regarding the use of Local Agency-sponsored social media prohibits the use of official social media to post “content that is abusive, discriminatory, inflammatory or sexually explicit”; “information that could tend to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office or its members”; and “[a]ny content posted for personal use”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff’s Department Policy 1030 regarding employees’ use of social media prohibits the use of social media to post “speech or expression made pursuant to an official duty that tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office or its employees” and “endorse, support, oppose or contradict any political campaign or initiative”; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonoma County Policy 9-1 regarding the use of Local Agency-sponsored social media limits its use to “posts ... designed to increase the public’s knowledge, trust, and use of Local Agency services” and “posts ... relate[d] to matters within the scope of the Local Agency’s function and should be consistent with the Local Agency’s public service mission”; and

**WHEREAS**, Policy 9-1 IV. H. prohibits the use of official social media “for political purposes or to conduct private commercial activities, except as such uses are specifically permitted by the Local Agency Board”; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff Essick on November 8, 2021 posted to the Agency’s official Facebook page a defense and support of Assistant Sheriff Eddie Engram, Sheriff Essick’s personally endorsed political candidate in the 2022 election for Sonoma County Sheriff, in response to a Facebook post made by a civilian on that civilian’s own Facebook page. In his official post, Sheriff Essick wrote against a perceived attempt to question Assistant Sheriff Engram’s “authenticity as an executive law enforcement leader of color” and endorsed and supported Assistant Sheriff Engram as a “highly respected law enforcement leader.”



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***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Community Advisory Council (CAC) finds that Sheriff Essick's above-referenced Facebook postings created the appearance of endorsement of a political candidate for office and compromised and damaged the mission, function, reputation and professionalism of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) expresses severe disapproval of this political posting by Sheriff Essick and recommends that IOLERO undertake an investigation into this matter and that the Board of Supervisors refer this matter to County Counsel for investigation of the County's policy violations by Sheriff Essick.

**DULY PASSED** this Third day of January, 2022.

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1

Approved:



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Evan Zelig, Chair  
Community Advisory Council (CAC)