

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#26

**Tuesday,
May 24, 2022**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

DISTRIBUTED ON 05/23/2022

From: henkinp@earthlink.net
To: [Anderson, Joel](#); [Fletcher, Nathan \(BOS\)](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [Vargas, Nora](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] CARE COURT - THERE'S GOTTA BE A BETTER WAY!
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 4:15:38 PM

Hi Supervisors,

You want to establish a special (CARE) COURT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE AND HOMELESS POPULATIONS, as if we don't have Courts already. The overview says "The County is charged with providing care and support to our most vulnerable populations." So what's new?

The overview adds "collaboration, resources, and support on the part of all levels of government are required." We should know what all of these other levels of government have done in the age before we commit to spending taxpayer dollars on any plan. But this plan sounds pretty expensive - it 'connects a person with 24 months of services which include a public defender, clinical support services, and a housing plan.' So why should we foot the bill?

Nathan, what "collaboration, resources, and support" are available from other agencies?

Why do we need a 'care court,' an extra layer of bureaucracy - a lawyers' and clinicians' full employment plan? Either a person is mentally ill or not. We do not need further 'eligibility standards' or a 'delay in the Court's ability to sanction.' Those things should be up to mental health professionals and the Courts relying on the current situation, not some law passed months or years ago which may be outdated or rely on facts or suppositions no longer applicable to the current case.

For instance, someone who thinks he is the king of the Vikings probably does not need housing, so much as the looney bin - and why would he need a public defender?

Let me know what you think.

Regards,

Paul Henkin
henkinp@earthlink.net