

J. Connolly BUS 1/24/2023 #41

January 24, 2023

From: Joseph Connolly, M.A.

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
Copy: El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer  
El Dorado County Counsel

Subj: Objections to Renaming of El Dorado County Public Safety Complex

Dear Supervisors:

I urge you to vote no on the proposition to rename the El Dorado County Public Safety Complex as the "Sheriff John D'Agostini Public Safety Facility" as not being in the public's interest, as described below.

Sincerely,

s/Joseph Connolly

**BASES TO VOTE NO ON RENAMING  
THE EL DORADO COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY**

**1.**

**LACK OF NAMING POLICY FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

The County does not appear to have a naming policy for public buildings. In comparison, the El Dorado County Ordinance Code does have established policies for naming private or public roads, including nineteen "road naming standards." (See El Dorado County Code, §§ 110.04.060-110.)

**2.**

**THE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY HAS AN ESTABLISHED NAME**

The El Dorado County Public Safety Facility has professional signage at the entrance to its facility and on the face of the building. There is no need to expend taxpayer monies to install new, privately funded signage in purportedly "well deserving" recognition of an individual office holder who has just retired from office this month. (See Figures 1, 2.)

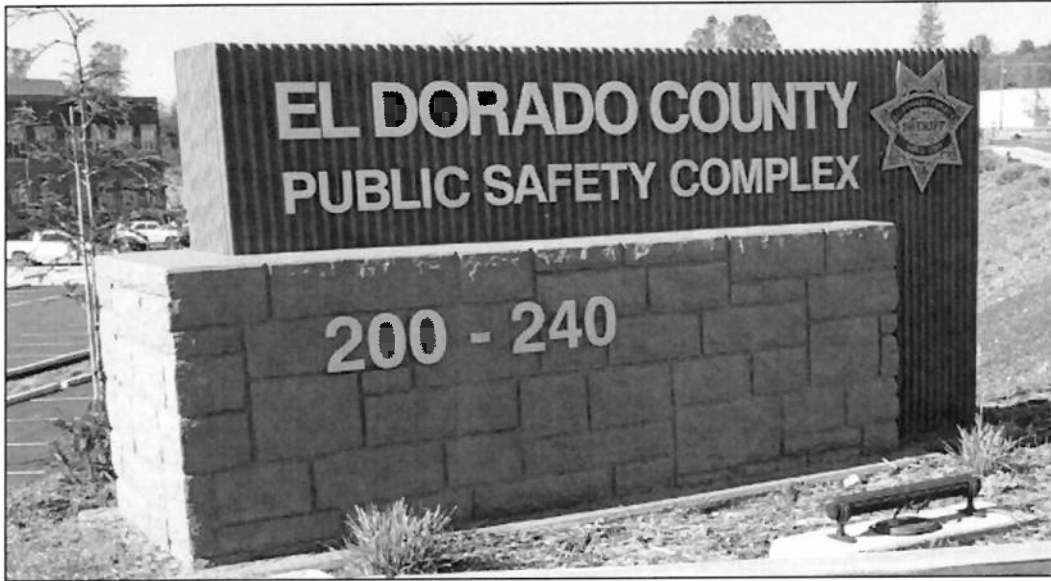


Figure 1

“El Dorado County Public Safety Complex” Signage at Public Entrance

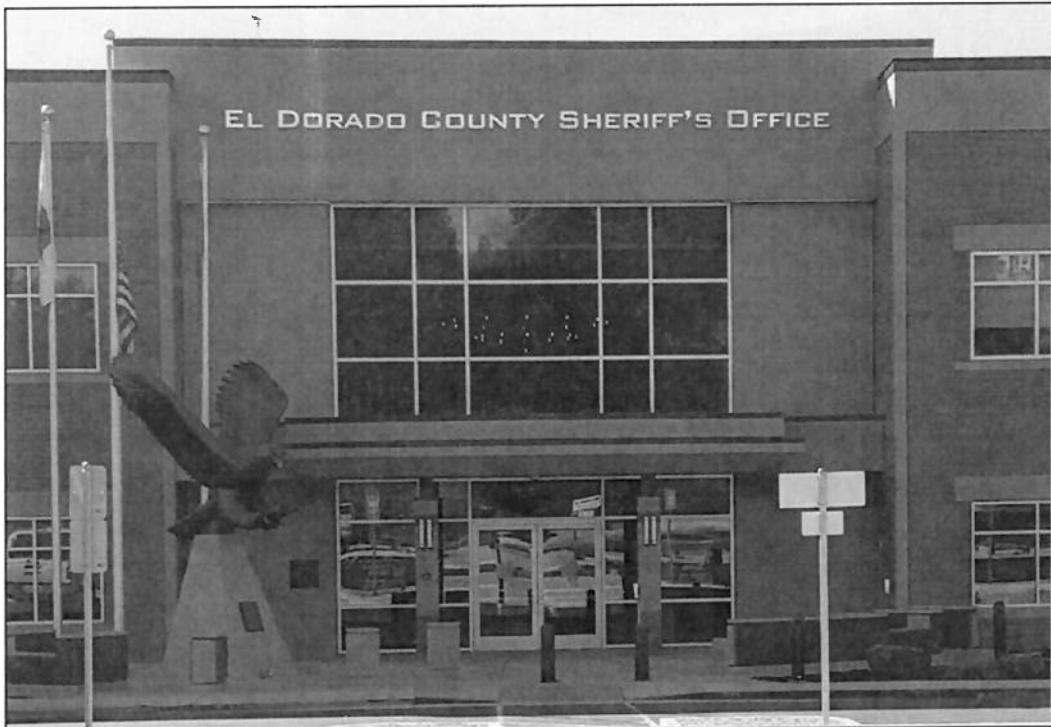


Figure 2

“El Dorado County Sheriff's Office” Signage at Building Entrance

Furthermore, there is a public plaque alongside the building's entrance with the building's already established name, "County of El Dorado Public Safety Facility," that includes recognition of the Board of Supervisors, Construction Management, General Contractors, and Architect, dated September, 2019. (See Figure 3.)

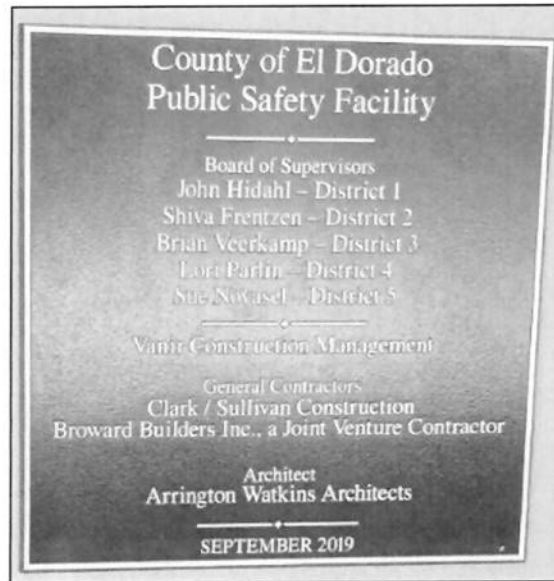


Figure 3  
Official El Dorado County Dedication Plaque - September, 2019  
"County of El Dorado Public Safety Facility"

### 3.

#### **FORMER SHERIFF D'AGOSTINI PREVIOUSLY DEDICATED THE BUILDING TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN 2021**

On January 22, 2021, former sheriff D'Agostini dedicated a ten foot high bronze eagle that sits alongside the public entrance to the Public Safety Facility. The eagle's conception and symbolism represented D'Agostini's *personal vision*, first conceived in 2011, as opposed to Board approval for a private statue at a County facility. The statute's cost of \$500,000 was funded by private donors.

A plaque below the eagle dedicates the monument to the "men and women of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office," as also said by D'Agostini in his dedication comments.<sup>1</sup> (See Figure 4.)

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<sup>1</sup> See "The eagle has landed," at <https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/the-eagle-has-landed/>.

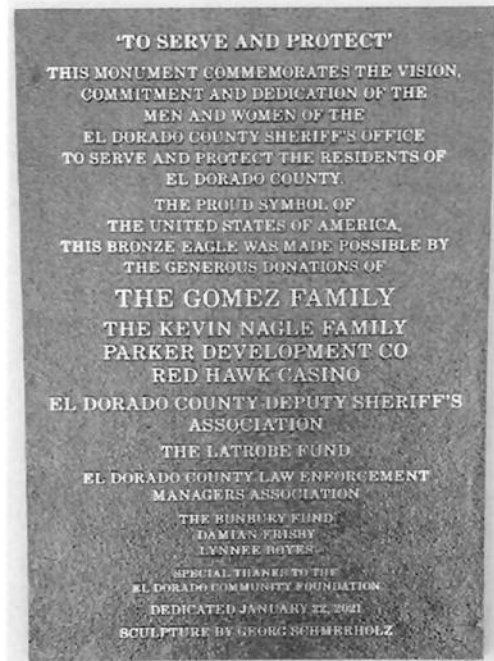


Figure 4

Dedication Plaque - Public Safety Facility Bronze Eagle - Jan. 22, 2021

4.

**THERE IS NO DISTINGUISHING PERSONAL REASON TO RENAME  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY FOR D'AGOSTINI**

There is no personally distinguishing reason to rename the Public Safety Facility after the recently retired D'Agostini. Despite the purported reason that he contributed to El Dorado County's receipt of a reportedly \$57 million loan to help fund the facility's construction, D'Agostini's name is not on the public plaque that established the facility's name in 2019, nor is there any public record to the agenda item that reflects his purported "leadership" in any other capacity. (See e.g., Figure 3.)

History will judge whether the facility's construction was in the public's overall interest, as the loan's interest expense will reportedly increase the facility's overall cost to over \$100 million.

Historically, the Board's agenda item also does not list any distinguished service by D'Agostini that separates him from his predecessors. According to the El Dorado County Wikipedia page, the first El Dorado County Sheriff took office on February 18, 1850, followed by twenty-six other sheriffs until D'Agostini took office in 2010.

Although D'Agostini served for 12 years, he is not the longest serving El Dorado County Sheriff. That record apparently belongs to former Sheriff Richard F. Pacileo, who served for sixteen years, between 1975-1995.<sup>2</sup>

What is there, then, about D'Agostini's service that rises above every other El Dorado County Sheriff since 1850? On the public record for this agenda item, there are only unspecified general comments about his "leadership" that do not distinguish D'Agostini from his predecessors, or justify naming a public safety facility for him.

## 5.

### **THE IDENTITY AND SOURCE OF PRIVATE FUNDING IS UNDISCLOSED AND NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

The request by Supervisor Turnboo to rename the Public Safety Facility for D'Agostini smacks of populism and hubris, especially in light of undisclosed private funds being used to rename a public building.

Moreover, the funds are not even in place and the agenda item seeks approval to rename the facility *now*, *subject to the Board's subsequent approval/acceptance of future private donations*; i.e., "All such donations will be brought to the Board for approval and acceptance of the donation prior to any staff time or purchases being made."

One of the County's purported values is "Transparency," but this agenda item seeks approval for funding that is not disclosed, nor its purported purpose. Questions that should be answered include, "What is the funder's purpose for seeking to rename a public facility?", "Who are the funders and why haven't they been identified?", and "Where is the funder's proposal to rename the facility, so it can be subject to public scrutiny and comment?"

## 6.

### **CONCLUSION**

Absent any formal policy for naming El Dorado County public buildings, and the absence of any public record of distinguishable service by D'Agostini, the Board should not approve the request to rename the Public Safety Facility, pending approval of private funding to replace the existing facility signage.

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<sup>2</sup> See "El Dorado County, California" at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El\\_Dorado\\_County,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Dorado_County,_California).

I object to the virtue signaling by Supervisor Turnboo on this agenda item.

The public has a right to know that Sheriff D'Agostini is not the virtuous Constitutional Sheriff he pretends to be. During our first 2011 audio recorded meeting, the Sheriff said, *"You need a new Board [of Supervisors.] All of them. Hold their feet to the fire. Mine too; I work for you."* A few years later I quoted him during a BOS meeting, and that was when he ordered IT to block my ability to communicate electronically with all EDSO staff.

Another example was during the July 2019 Taxpayers Association meeting when the Sheriff was the guest speaker and I held his "feet to the fire" in the presence of 32 witnesses. One issue involved the fact that Sheriff Richard Mack of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association confirmed to me in writing that D'Agostini has **not** been a member of the CSPOA for several years, and he apparently has no desire to be an Oathkeeper.

Rick Aiello - *"You refused to meet with Melody Lane or to allow her to accompany other citizens into meetings for the purpose of redress of grievances. The ability to petition the government for a redress of grievances is a Constitutionally-secured, inherent right which you denied, thereby perjuring your oath to the Constitution."*

*You also approved Melody's CCW permit and then maliciously rescinded that permit without just cause, which is a violation of her 2nd Amendment rights. You also denied Melody due process for filing multiple Citizen Complaints of Officer Misconduct, another Constitutional violation.*

*I have also seen the transcript of Melody's audio recording of when she went to your office to request public information. Her request was met with repeated refusals to answer her direct questions by your staff and then, when you appeared, you threatened her with a restraining order. Where is your Constitutional authority to refuse to provide public information and seek a restraining order?*

*These are matters of **truth**, Sheriff. A legal maxim is that an unrebutted affidavit serves as the truth in law and before the court. But beyond that, the Supreme Judge over all of us knows the truth as well, and He knows that when you tell me that you are "standing up for our Constitution", you are not being truthful."*

Brandi Peerman - *"The stunt DAgostini pulled made me more angry than anything else because it was so unjust. It's not even the tower that's the most upsetting, it's the corruption that's the most disturbing. Before this happened I just didn't know any better. Now I will never look at things the same. But I'm not one to want to be in denial even if it's uncomfortable to know the **truth.**"*

~~This item should not even be on the agenda.~~ If there is any signage at all, then it should honor Deputy Ishmael.