

September 23, 2018
Eric Babson
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Dear Sheriff Aherns:

I am concerned about equal justice. The gap between rich and poor continues to grow and equal access to justice is suffering. The DOJ report on criminal justice in Ferguson was eyeopening with a court system focused more on repressing and taxing the poor rather than improving society. While this example may be extreme, excessive fines not tailored to the ability to pay have also been a problem here. This makes a minor infraction only a minor problem for someone with money but a lengthy burden for someone without and creates more barriers to an integrated society while setting up your office as an adversary rather than a support service for poor communities. I understand that the current fine system provides only a small percentage of any agency's budget in Alameda so that now is the time to end this practice before falling into the disaster that befell Ferguson.

Thank you for working to eliminate fees in the Alameda justice system.

I am very proud to be a Berkeley resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson