

EAST BAY EXPRESS

HALT DEATH SENTENCING

As an Oakland resident, I care deeply about unsolved crime and violence in Alameda County. I have already lost two family members to murder, and as a mother of six adult males and one female, I need this cycle of violence to end. Crime in Oakland is not only prolific in my African-American community but it has now spread to areas that have been previously sheltered from crime.

When we take a look at unsolved crime in Alameda County, there may be an element that can help solve crimes — a moratorium on death sentencing.

Without the funding to provide more highly skilled technicians to crack the many unsolved murder cases in Alameda County we are literally allowing killers to get away with murder. How much can we truly expect from our law officials when their hands are financially tied behind their backs? Did you know that for each person sentenced to death row in Alameda County the money comes from the county budget. It cost \$1.1 million dollars more to sentence someone to death rather than sentencing them to permanent incarceration. These are people who will most likely die of old age before being executed, however, the governor decided to put \$250 million dollars back into a deficit state budget to provide special housing for those on death row. Logically speaking, there is no logic in doing this. Ask our governor to take this \$250 million dollars and place it where it will make the biggest difference — getting more cold cases solved. Our biggest concern isn't those locked away for murder, it's the ones on the street that have not been caught and can murder again and again.

If the governor, on a statewide level, and the district attorney, on a local level, call for a moratorium on death sentencing, millions of dollars will be freed up IMMEDIATELY. A moratorium on death sentencing has been established in the past by those who weighed the cost carefully and choose to realistically tackle the problem of unsolved crime.

Delane Sims, Oakland

ACCOUNTABILITY, NOT OFFICERS