

# Aptos group hears gloomy anti-crime news

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Find the money.

That was the message Santa Cruz County supervisors heard last night from nearly 200 people who turned out to support increased law enforcement and recreational programs for youth in Aptos.

"Take a small step for Aptos, a small step for Santa Cruz County.

Public safety has to come first," said Aptos High School principal Ron Severson, spokesman for the Aptos Community Alliance.

The alliance, formed early this year, is asking the county to allocate \$207,000 for a one-year pilot program aimed at reducing youth crime.

The money would fund two additional deputies for Aptos, a probation officer who would split time

between Aptos and Watsonville high schools, a drop-in center at Aptos Junior High after school, and an open gym on Friday and Saturday nights at Aptos High School.

Supervisors had no argument with the proposal itself, but told the crowd no money had been allocated for it. "If we had the money, we'd be funding it," said Supervisor Gary Patton.

If the county is to fund the program, the money would either have to come out of other programs, from grants, or by raising taxes. The idea of additional fees drew groans from the crowd.

"Squeeze a little out" of something else, said Ed Mazenko, of Scotts Valley, a member of the tax-protest group Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers and Involved

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