



POLICE DEPARTMENT
City of Benicia

October 3, 2024

Dear Philanthropic Leaders,

As Chief of Police for the City of Benicia, I am writing to express my strong support for increased philanthropic funding to Solano County, with a special focus on the incredible work being done by the Benicia Community Foundation (BCF). As a law enforcement officer dedicated to the safety and well-being of our community, I have seen firsthand how BCF's initiatives help foster a strong, unified, and resilient Benicia.

One of the most powerful examples of BCF's contribution to our community is the creation of the Harold Bray Monument. Harold Bray, a hero and the last living survivor of the USS *Indianapolis*, is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and resilience. By establishing this monument, BCF has not only honored a local hero but also strengthened the city's connection to its proud history and the values that define Benicia. The monument serves as a lasting tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our country, reminding all of us of the importance of community, service, and remembrance.

BCF has also been a cornerstone of support for many community-building efforts, from funding youth programs to organizing beloved city events like the 4th of July Fireworks and the Holiday Tree Lighting. These events bring our residents together and foster a strong sense of belonging, which plays an essential role in maintaining public safety and community cohesion.

I believe BCF's work is critical to keeping Benicia not only safe but also connected and engaged. Their ability to regrant funds to other local nonprofits ensures that a wide range of services—many of which directly impact public safety—are available to our residents. For these reasons, I encourage philanthropic organizations and corporate partners to prioritize funding for BCF. By supporting their work, you are making a direct investment in the safety, well-being, and spirit of Benicia.

Thank you for your consideration of this important cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Menesini", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark Menesini
Chief of Police
Benicia Police Department