

Compounding this issue, when I was first hired, it was made clear to me that one of my greatest strengths was my relationships with elected officials and County officials. Yet soon after my hiring, the Administration explicitly prohibited me from meeting with any of them. In doing so, my position as Executive Director was weakened before it even began, as this restriction made it impossible for me to pursue outside funding opportunities for SAL—funding that is essential to the organization’s sustainability.

While I could cite numerous additional examples, the broader truth is undeniable: under its current structure, SAL cannot fulfill its mission. In my professional opinion, the organization should suspend fundraising efforts until it can demonstrate accountability and deliver meaningful and tangible value aligned with donors’ expectations. Achieving that will require empowering the full Board to lead collectively, free from the control of any single individual, and adopting a strategic plan to guide decisions based on what best serves youth, not personal interests.

For the sake of the SAL youth and their families this organization was created to serve, I urge you to act with independence and courage. The youth of San Mateo County deserve an organization defined by vision, integrity, and collaboration, not one weakened by politics and fear.

With regret,  
Maggie Cornejo