

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - USSB

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From: DiStefano-Karoff <debanna2@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:53 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Statement re: Truth Act Forum
Attachments: Final BOS USSB Statement of Conscience ... ejb&jaedits.docx

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Attached is a statement regarding the Truth Act Forum presentation. Thank you.

Anna DiStefano
805-570-8809

**Truth Act Forum
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
December 17, 2024**

USSB Statement of Conscience on Immigration:

[Adopted by vote of the Congregation of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara at its annual meeting, June 2017.]

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Good morning. My name is Anna DiStefano. I am speaking on behalf of members of the Justice and Equity Team of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. We are deeply concerned about any cooperation or communication between ICE and local law enforcement that might jeopardize members of our immigrant community who do not have felony convictions. We would like to reiterate our congregation's **Statement of Conscience on Immigration**, adopted in 2017 for the record

“The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara resolves to affirm the principals of our faith, in both private and public forums, by providing a single voice against unjust policies and practices that target and discriminate against immigrant communities. We the members commission our Board of Directors and Ministry to speak for the Society as one voice in opposition to public policies and action that threaten the human rights of all immigrants. Additionally, we resolve to join with other organizations in the pursuit of justice, dignity and compassion for immigrant communities and to provide support both real and moral as we go forth. As people of faith and people of conscience, we believe that every person is sacred. We will work to ensure respect for the dignity, safety, and human rights

of all people, while resisting unjust policies and practices that target and discriminate against immigrant communities.”

In the current political environment, our statement and actions are more relevant than ever. Concern for others IS concern for all of us. The physical and moral safety of our entire community is inextricably bound together with the safety and dignity of the immigrant community, in principle, and in practice. We urge a commitment by us all, but especially by leaders and institutions, including law enforcement, to policies, practices, and changes that recognize and enhance our interdependent safety, common humanity, and well-being.