



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SANTA MARIA-LOMPOC BRANCH

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May 10, 2021

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

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RE: TRUTH ACT Hearing

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the Board,

We call upon you and the Sheriff Department to stop all ICE notifications and transfers, and put an end to the painful separations of our community members and their families in Santa Barbara County. Like many people, immigrants are here in the U.S. seeking a better life—jobs, to escape from poverty, for better housing, food, better education/healthcare, and many more things that our country, the land of opportunity, offer.

Like every person who commits a crime and is punished according to the law, immigrants should be afforded this same right and once he/she has served his or her time in custody, he/she should be released from custody and be able to restart his or her life with their families, in our community, instead of being threatened with deportation.

Currently the Sheriff's website allows any individual to access information about people who are detained in county jail that aids ICE in finding people to pick up. We urge Sheriff Brown to reconsider the information that is made public as it infringes on individuals right to privacy and often puts people at risk of being picked up.

Also, transferring someone to ICE is "double jeopardy" when the person has served their time and is ready to reenter the community, but is prevented from doing so because of an ICE hold. We already know incarceration harms individuals, families, and communities beyond just the person incarcerated. The Sheriff's cooperation with ICE makes this worse by permanently separating immigrants from their loved ones, who often rely on that person as a parent, partner, and/or provider.

Many counties across the state -- from Los Angeles County, with the state's largest jail system, to Contra Costa County, with a Sheriff who was the immediate past President of the Sheriff's Association—have already ceased any and all transfers to ICE. In addition, San Francisco and Santa Clara County have some of the strongest sanctuary policies in the state.

We call upon you and the Sheriff Department to stop all ICE notifications and transfers, and put an end to the painful separations of our community members and their families.

Sincerely,

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.