

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment



#4

From: Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt <lyonspruitt@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 2:22 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt; Sara Macdonald
Subject: NAACP Letter to Board of Supervisors, Departmental Item #4, 8/22/23
Attachments: NAACP Letter to Board of Supervisors Dept. Item 4, re ICE and Santa Barbara County Sheriff 2023.pdf

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Thank you
Lawanda

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt
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"I **URGE** you to answer the highest calling of your heart and **STAND UP** for what you truly believe."
Congressman John R. Lewis

"Democracy Dies in Darkness." The Washington Post

NAACP
SANTA MARIA-
LOMPOC BRANCH

P.O. BOX 1092
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MISSION

Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

VISION

We envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination.

NAACP

Santa Maria/ Lompoc Branch

August 21, 2023

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

C/O Clerk of the Board

County Administration Building, Board Hearing Room

105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor

Santa Barbara , CA 93101

RE: Departmental #4 on Truth Act

Chair Williams and Members of the Board,

I bring you greetings from the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People. You know us as the NAACP and our mission is to achieve EQUITY, political rights and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination and accelerate well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

On behalf of the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch of the NAACP, it's officers and members, we wish to convey our opinion that the Sheriff's policy of cooperating with ICE inflicts "double punishment" for immigrants and it is our belief that all immigrant residents should be **treated the same as all other residents -- no better or worse**. While the safety of the community must be factored in, let be clear that we are not referencing to offenders who have committed and been convicted of violent offenses such as murder, but those who by definition, have **already** been found to be eligible for release from custody by a Judge.

If not because of where they were born, these community members would be allowed to return home to their families and communities. **Subjecting immigrants to additional detention and deportation is double punishment**. When the Sheriff transfers a person to ICE, they either have finished serving time in jail or were in pre-trial custody -- meaning, not convicted of a crime -- and were determined to be safe to be released in the exact same circumstances that a U.S. citizen would be allowed to go home to their loved ones.

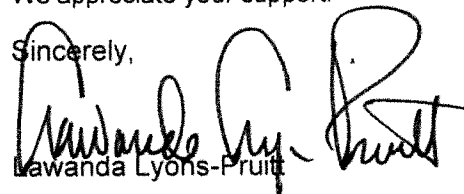
There are many counties including Los Angeles, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Humboldt, that have already ceased transfers to ICE with a bright-line policy of non-cooperation with ICE.

Santa Barbara County is behind and you and Sheriff Brown have the opportunity to adopt a policy that ensures we are investing in family unity, not family separation. We must leave this shameful past behind and adopt a humane policy to keep families together.

We implore the Sheriff Department and Sheriff Brown to update their Office policy on ICE transfers and notifications and end this practice.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt