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Subject: Full Public Comment 7/15 to County Board of Supervisors

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Good afternoon, and thank you. I've been here this meeting since 9:00 a.m. listening and rewriting this speech to keep it under 2 minutes.

My name is Alethea Tyner Paradis. I am an associate professor of history at Santa Barbara City College. I am here as a private citizen to request that the \$2 million budget increase under consideration to the Sheriff's department be reallocated to organizations that support the immigrant community.

It's not hyperbole to say we have entered a phase of white nationalist authoritarianism. If you have ever wondered what you would have done during the WWII kidnappings of Jewish people during the Holocaust, you're doing it now.

Sheriff Brown says that if our community had a gang of masked, armed thugs snatching people off the street and workplaces, police would show up and protect the people. Unless, he shrugs, it's masked agents of the federal government.

Brown's rationalizations about statutory compliance, agency jurisdictions and desire for the community to trust law enforcement, yet stating on record an unwillingness to intervene, not even to protect Supervisor Roy Lee from ICE agent harassment, is a shocking display of cowardice. His budget needs to be frozen, and funds should be allocated instead to the immigrant rights organizations.

Unaccountable masked thugs are seizing our people, and Sheriff Brown's finger-wagging at people for throwing bricks to protect their loved ones from abduction is appalling.

Law enforcement is sworn to uphold constitutional protections, including habeas corpus and due process, for all people, regardless of status.

Representatives, you keep saying that you have limited power— I'm pushing back on this. **What you are doing here is very powerful.** Holding space for the community to speak is brilliant and necessary. Representative Hartman, Lee and Capps, you state that your policy is to push back on SB cooperating with ICE. We see you and thank you.

Representative Nelson, – you can't possibly think that nervously reading a "don't believe the hype" op ed into the record, meets this moment. Your words do not assuage a terrorized community. You can do more.

American history has seen this moment before.

When California entered the Union as a free state in 1850, judges and police officers helped hide or protect black and brown people from slave catchers. **Courageous law enforcement stood for justice, not capitulation to federally-sanctioned kidnapping.**

If antebellum lawmen could find the courage to resist federal slave catchers in the 1850s, then surely today's officers can stand against ICE's unaccountable and racially targeted terror.

The district attorney says, "Look to ourselves to see if we cannot do better."

He is right. Yes, we can. You can fund the immigrant groups supporting the community, join the ACLU lawsuit, freeze Sheriff Brown's budget and direct all law enforcement to **defend the community from ICE.**

En Paz Por Un Mundo Mejor,
In Peace for a Better World,

Professor Alethea Tyner Paradis, J.D.
(she/hers)
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