

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

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**From:** Willie Lubka <lubka@buen-vecino.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025 3:22 PM  
**To:** Laura Capps; Roy Lee; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino  
**Cc:** sbcob  
**Subject:** ICE Transfers in Santa Barbara County / SB 54 Compliance  
**Attachments:** Letter of Complaint - SBSO 04232025.pdf; SBSO Complaint Form 04232025.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors,

Attached is a formal complaint that has been submitted to the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO). It has also been shared with the Police Practices Section of the State of California Department of Justice. It details an ongoing practice of non-compliance by SBSO with its legal obligation to report the number ICE transfers it conducts each year to the California Department of Justice. I respectfully ask that you be sure to address this issue with the Sheriff at the upcoming TRUTH Act Forum. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Willie Lubka, Executive Director  
Buen Vecino  
805-218-1189



# BUEN VECINO

Buen Vecino  
2625 Townsgate Road, Suite #330  
Westlake Village, CA 91361

April 23, 2025

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office  
Attn: Office of Professional Standards  
4434 Calle Real  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office,

My name is Willie Lubka and I serve as Executive Director of Buen Vecino, a non-profit organization located in the Central Coast that is a part of a network of individuals, agencies and community organizations that advocate for the rights of immigrant community members.

I am writing to formally file a complaint with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO) regarding its failure to comply with its obligation to report ICE transfers to the California Department of Justice as required by California Government Code 7284.6(b)(C)(2). Major discrepancies between the numbers of ICE transfers reported by the SBSO each year to the California Department of Justice and those reported during Santa Barbara County TRUTH Act Forums demonstrate that the SBSO is in violation of the following provision:

*All law enforcement agencies shall report annually to the Department of Justice, in a manner specified by the Attorney General, the number of transfers pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), and the offense that allowed for the transfer, pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a).*

At the most recent Santa Barbara County TRUTH Act Forum on December 17, 2024, the SBSO reported that in the year 2023 the SBSO conducted *five* "re-arrests." ([Attachment A](#)). For that same year, the SBSO reported *zero* ICE transfers to the California Department of Justice. The same pattern of reporting discrepancies occurred for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. At the 2018 TRUTH Act Forum, the SBSO reported that in 2017 it facilitated 351 ICE pickups. In 2019, the SBSO reported that it conducted 98 ICE pickups in 2018. In 2020, the SBSO reported that there were 38 ICE pickups in 2019. In 2021, the SBSO reported that it facilitated 12 ICE pickups in 2020. In 2022, the SBSO reported that it collaborated with ICE on 6

“re-arrests.” In 2023, the SBSO reported that it facilitated 2 ICE pickups in 2022. In each of those years, however, the Department of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Center’s SB54 Transfers report shows zero ICE transfers reported by the SBSO. Please see [Attachment B](#) for the Department of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Center’s report on SB54 Transfers, which shows zero ICE transfers reported by the SBSO for every year. See [Attachment C](#) for the Values Act ICE transfer data requirements for Law Enforcement Entities pursuant to California Government Code section 7284.6 (SB 54, 2017).

The SBSO has attempted to justify its practice of evading its requirement to report ICE transfers to the Department of Justice by describing them as “re-arrests” or “ICE pickups” rather than as ICE transfers. The SBSO’s process for coordinating a “re-arrest” is to provide ICE agents with exclusive entry to a non-public sallyport and then to release the person in the SBSO’s custody into the enclosure where the ICE agents arrest them. The SBSO provides information to ICE about the date and time of release and provides ICE with exclusive access to a secured, non-public area of the SBSO’s facility to effectuate federal immigration enforcement arrests. Despite the use of euphemistic terms, these events are clearly ICE transfers.

By not reporting accurate ICE transfer numbers in its yearly reports to the California Department of Justice, the SBSO is in violation of California Government Code 7284.6(b)(C)(2). The SBSO should immediately redress its practice of unlawful inaccurate ICE transfer reporting.

We call on the SBSO to:

- Report accurate data to the California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General for all years since the TRUTH Act was enacted into law.
- Acknowledge publicly at the next TRUTH Act Forum that the SBSO has been in violation of its reporting obligations.
- Acknowledge publicly at the next TRUTH Act Forum that the events SBSO has been describing as “re-arrests” or “pickups” are in fact ICE transfers.
- Commit to reporting accurately for 2024 and any future years during which the SBSO conducts ICE transfers.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara and also to the Police Practices Section at the State of California Department of Justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

*Willie Lubka*

Willie Lubka, Executive Director, Buen Vecino  
805-218-1189  
lubka@buen-vecino.org



# COMPLAINT FORM

Mutual trust, cooperation and respect between members of the Sheriff's Office and the people we protect is essential for effective law enforcement service. Anyone we interact with should be treated professionally, fairly and courteously. Likewise, our deputies and civilian staff need to be able to carry out their duties in a reasonable, lawful and impartial manner without abuse or fear of retaliation.

Our hope is that any experience you have with our agency representatives will be a positive one, but we recognize that since we're human we won't always get it right. That's why we welcome constructive criticism and valid complaints about how we handled any given situation. My office, in compliance with California Penal Code Section 832.5, is committed to investigating complaints about our personnel from members of our community. You can learn more about our complaint investigation process by visiting [www.sbsheriff.org](http://www.sbsheriff.org).

Sincerely,

**BILL BROWN**

Sheriff-Coroner

Santa Barbara County

## HOW DO I MAKE A COMPLAINT?

In order for this complaint to be processed, this completed form should be mailed or brought to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. You can also file a complaint online at [sbsheriff.org](http://sbsheriff.org).

## HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

There is no deadline to file a complaint. However, a complaint should be made as soon as possible after the incident as is practical. Facts are better ascertained when the incident is reported promptly.

## WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact the Professional Standards Unit sergeant at (805) 681-4292.

## CAN I MAKE AN ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT?

Yes. Anonymous complaints are accepted, but may not be investigated if there is insufficient information to conduct an investigation without the aid of the person complaining.

## WILL I BE CONTACTED BY AN INVESTIGATOR?

You will receive written confirmation acknowledging your complaint within 10 days of our receipt. Every complaint is reviewed by Executive Staff of the Sheriff's Office. Once a written complaint is submitted, you may be contacted by an investigator to obtain a verbal statement.

## WHAT IF I AM UNDER THE AGE OF 18?

A person under 18 years of age may make a complaint with the knowledge, approval and signature of a parent or legal guardian. A responsible adult can also complete this form on the minor's behalf.

## WHAT IS RACIAL PROFILING?

Racial or identity profiling is the consideration of, or reliance on, to any degree, actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or mental or physical disability in deciding which persons to subject to a stop or in deciding upon the scope or substance of law enforcement activities following a stop, except that an officer may consider or rely on characteristics listed in a specific suspect description.

## NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

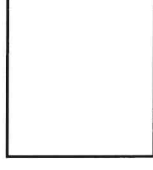
At the conclusion of the investigation, we will notify you of the disposition of your complaint, which will be one of the following:

**SUSTAINED** – The investigation determined that there is a sufficient amount of evidence to show that the allegation(s) occurred as alleged in the complaint.

**NOT SUSTAINED** – The investigation was unable to uncover sufficient evidence that the allegations clearly did or did not occur as alleged.

**EXONERATED** – The investigation determined that the allegations in the complaint did occur, but that the actions were lawful, justified and proper under the circumstances.

**UNFOUNDED** – The investigation determined that the alleged act(s) clearly did not occur or did not involve Sheriff's Office personnel.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
ATTN: PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT  
4434 CALLE REAL  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110

SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
4434 CALLE REAL  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110



## REPORT OF CITIZEN COMPLAINT

Complainant Sig Willie Lubka Date: April 23, 2025

YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL EXCEPT TO COMPLY WITH STATE OR FEDERAL ORDERS OR LAWS AND IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.