

From: [Vanessa Terán](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#); [Supervisor Gorell](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#); [LaVere, Matt](#); [Lopez, Vianey](#); [Long, Kelly](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT (from Vanessa Teran, MICOP): AGENDA ITEM: 75- TRUTH ACT FORUM – November 07, 2023
- Board of Supervisors, Ventura County
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 5:25:55 PM

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Dear Board of Supervisors (VC BOS) and Clerk of the Board,

Today, our public comment time was cut short from the usual allotted time of three minutes and was unfortunately cut to one minute and a half, leaving my and many comments this evening short of their full message. Please see the below comment per today's agenda Item #75 on the Truth Act Forum.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Re: Community Forum to Provide Information to the Public Concerning Immigration and Customs Enforcement Access to Individuals Housed in County Jail Facilities in 2022 in Accordance with the Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds (TRUTH) Act.

Dear Chair and esteemed Supervisors of the County of Ventura,

Good afternoon. My name is Vanessa Teran, and I hold the position of Policy Director with MICOP. I stand before you today as a representative of the countless Indigenous communities laboring in the agricultural industry across our county, diligently striving to provide sustenance for their loved ones and immigrant families.

This August, I received a call from a former Indigenous youth leader, now a grown adult, married, and a parent of two young children: a 4-year-old daughter and an infant. She reached out to me, seeking solace and support in a moment of distress. To my dismay, I learned that her husband had been detained by ICE. He was apprehended by a law enforcement officer while on his way to purchase groceries for his family and never made it back home. He was subsequently transferred to an ICE detention facility in Adelanto, CA, where he found himself without proper legal representation, language assistance, medical care or attention, or information regarding his rights within the immigration system. This man, who committed no crime, was simply targeted due to his ethnicity and immigration status.

Compounding this tragedy, he was absent on his daughter's first day of school that week—a significant milestone that is now marred by his absence. How do we explain to this young child that her father was unjustly taken away from her? Our families, as they move from place to place, suffer from racial profiling, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation at the hands

of law enforcement and ICE.

We are acutely aware that the Sheriff's office possesses the authority to revise the policy on ICE transfers and notifications, putting an end to this cruel practice. Additionally, you, as the Board of Supervisors, have the power to enact local policy that ensures no county resources are allocated to facilitate residents' transfer to ICE, where they are forcibly separated from their community and family.

In light of these circumstances and the countless untold stories echoing this injustice, I respectfully implore the Sheriff's office and the esteemed Board of Supervisors to establish a formal policy today, ending all transfers and notifications to ICE. Your action can make a profound difference in the lives of these families and uphold the principles of justice and compassion that our community holds dear.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Teran

Policy Director

Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)

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Vanessa Terán

Director of Policy

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[pronouns](#): they/them/elles

Our mission: To support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant communities in California's Central Coast. MICOP is the home of [Radio Indígena, 94.1 FM](#). *As a non-profit organization, we are always appreciative of your support; all donations are tax deductible. [Donate today](#). To learn more about the Indigenous people's land on which your home or work sits, visit: native-land.ca*



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