

From: [Karina Chavarria](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item no.81-"TRUTH Act Forum."
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Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Karina Chavarria and I am a resident of Port Hueneme. I am a proud supporter of the ICE Out of Ventura County coalition.

There are major laws that prohibit local law enforcement from using county resources to carry out federal immigration enforcement:

- The 10th Amendment prohibits the Federal government from commandeering local resources to carry out the Federal government's duties (*Printz v. US* (S.Ct. 1997)).
- ICE already has the tools it needs to do its job without relying on the limited and already strained local resources and local law enforcement agencies to take action.
- The 4th Amendment states that ICE holds are voluntary, not mandatory, and counties cannot avoid liability for holding an individual who is not deportable for ICE by arguing that detainers are mandatory (*Galarza v. Szalczyk* (3d Cir. 2014)).
- *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County* (D. Or. 2014): ICE holds violate Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure because they are not based on a probable cause finding.

Our county government and Sheriff's Office should respect and uphold every person's humanity and human rights, regardless of their immigration status, specially as the VCSO states it is: "committed to...respond to public concerns in a manner which is fair, unbiased, lawful," to "display empathy and respect for the dignity of all individuals" and "is committed to increasing and strengthening community partnerships."

Voluntary cooperation with ICE by the Sheriff's Office expends our county's tax dollars, and increases the risks of potential lawsuits against Ventura County. We cannot allow the VCSO to risk liability with our hard-earned tax dollars:

- There are many rules that are often broken regarding providing copies of immigration documents, further infringing on individuals' due process rights.
- Entangling local agencies with ICE has led to widespread civil rights violations. We do not want that for Ventura County and its residents.
- Local agencies that make such errors run the risk of expensive litigation and even potential action from the CA's Attorney General, which can be avoided by ending collaboration with ICE.

Ending voluntary collaboration with ICE makes our communities safer. The VCSO can play a significant role in keeping families together by ending its voluntary collaboration with ICE, as the vast majority of people detained by ICE come from transfers from state or local law enforcement agencies: It is disheartening to see Ventura County moving in a direction that is anti-immigrant, while so many other jurisdictions and counties, in contrast, already ended collaboration with ICE.

Ending detention, deportations, and family separation creates healthier and stronger communities:

- Keeping families together strengthens our communities and allows them to thrive.
- Immigrants and their families suffer immense trauma and hardship when a loved one is deported. Separation is especially hard on the children, and its impacts are lifelong.
- We cannot continue denying the due process rights of stigmatized and marginalized community members because of bias against their immigration status. This amounts to an undemocratic, biased, and

racist “double punishment” for immigrants.

Many California counties have already ended their collaboration with ICE: Ventura County is one of only 11 counties in California that transferred people to ICE and separated families in 2023, out of the 58 counties in the state.

Collaborating with ICE goes against our county government’s goals and values:

- In 2020, the BOS passed a Resolution declaring, “Racism is a public health crisis,” in Ventura County. Yet, the county continues to discriminate against predominantly Brown and Black community members who have served their time by transferring them to ICE.

Further, ICE does not act in good faith: Since its inception in 2003, ICE has been used to terrorize immigrant communities. Deceptively, ICE officers commonly present administrative warrants instead of the legally required judicial warrants. Our Sheriff’s Office should not want to be viewed in the same light.

I call on the VCSO to stand with our immigrant community and end its voluntary collaboration with ICE NOW! Please join the many counties in California that have stopped aiding ICE in separating families.

Stop responding to any notification and transfer requests by ICE so ALL Ventura County families stay together and thrive.

Sincerely,
Karina Chavarria, Ph.D.