



League of United Latin American Citizens
District 17
P. O. Box 369
Oxnard, CA 93061

November 17, 2020

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
Sheriff Bill Ayub
800 So. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93012

Re: 2020 Annual Truth Act Meeting

Honorable Board Members and Sheriff Ayub,

This comes to you as public comment from the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, District 17. Our organization is the largest and oldest Latino Civil Rights organization in the country.

In alignment not only with SB 54, The Truth Act and the County of Ventura recently adopted Board of Supervisor Resolution titled, **The Resolution Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis and Pledging to Promote Equity, Inclusion and Diversity in Housing, Employment, Economic Development, Health Care and Public Safety in Ventura County** we wish to share examples of areas that have raised alarm with our organization, that were brought forward by community members, and may be a violation of the Act or at minimum the spirit of the intent of the Truth Act..

LULAC District 17 received information regarding a Mixteco woman who presented with a migraine headache at VCMC following her work day on June 26, 2020 at approximately 6:00p.m. She was examined between 9:00-10:00p.m. by a physician.

She and her husband are designated as essential workers, working in the fields as farm workers. They are undocumented. She was told she had some swelling, common with migraines. She had been to VCMC on several occasions for the same migraine complaint. She was asked about possible domestic violence. She replied there was no domestic violence towards her or her children. Someone at VCMC called the Sheriff. An officer arrived and asked the patient some questions and left a business card for the husband to contact. He did so the following day. The officer was unavailable. He then went back a second time on the day after that. He was arrested, went to court, and was up-charged, a practice common within the District Attorney's office. The charges were rejected at court. Due to an already challenging COVID environment, sometimes lack of access to care, and financial hardship, an encounter with ICE and law

endorsement will detract people from seeking care, removing household breadwinners and exacerbating the financial setbacks in this family and the county.

Following within two days of his court date, he and his wife were driving to work and were stopped by ICE. He, alone, was taken by ICE, although others were also undocumented, and is scheduled for deportation. The spouse did not give authorization to speak to ICE nonetheless ICE was able to learn of the spouse's release from the Sheriff's Department.

This background is to highlight the role that hospital staff played by assuming there was domestic violence. We believe the hospital's misreporting of domestic violence led the Sheriff's Department to arrest and then cooperated with ICE which resulted in the later arrest and commencement of deportation proceedings against the spouse. I am told that the woman received no DV literature, and no referral to Interface or Coalition for Family Harmony, if, in fact, DV was suspected that information should have been provided. The women had no exterior indications of DV and merely presented for a migraine. When asked, she replied there had been no DV in the household.

We know that undocumented, essential workers, are fearful to go to doctor visits or the hospital during COVID and for other health reasons. This is a very good example of what can happen to workers who try to access medical care, then find themselves incarcerated by law enforcement which makes them vulnerable for the Sheriff and ICE joint cooperation.

SB 54 is supposed to prevent law enforcement from colluding with ICE. If the spouse is deported, the wife will unlikely be unable to sustain the family. She could even be reported to Child Protective Services. This family who had never had any encounters with the police is now in the "system" and it could get worse.

This example reflects the pipeline of jail to ICE deportations as well as other adverse interactions that become reality with education and social service institutions that touch the family.

We also want to report that LULAC obtained a Probation Agency Policy, Procedure 207, Post Order DHPO.01.A.10 that directly authorizes cooperation with ICE. We brought this to the attention of Director Mark Varela last month who relayed it was an error. We suspect that there may have been youth who were reported as a result of this error. We also received a copy of a management communication ordering staff not to speak Spanish to each other or to incarcerated juveniles. This is also of great concern as this could result in waiver of their rights with regard to ICE contact since they are not spoken to in their dominant/preferred language.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Salas

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