

Key, Lori

From: Willie Lubka <lubka@buen-vecino.org>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 3:00 PM
To: ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: Agenda item #34 - Truth Act Hearing

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Dear Supervisors Parks, Huber, Long, Zaragoza, and Bennett, County Executive Powers, and Sheriff Ayub:

My name is Willie Lubka, I am a resident of Thousand Oaks (District 2) and a member of a non-profit organization called Buen Vecino (which is Spanish for Good Neighbor).

Thank you for complying with the legal requirement to hold a TRUTH Act Forum to share information and practices concerning law enforcement's interactions with ICE. While I appreciate you holding the hearing, the time of the day and the meeting duration you scheduled are not ideal. 4:00pm on a weekday is a difficult time for working people and for parents. If another TRUTH Act Forum is held in Ventura County in the future, I encourage you to schedule it in the evening to allow for more participation. Secondly, the allocation of only one hour is too great of a limit on public comments. The time of the hearing and the time limit convey the impression that the TRUTH Act Forum is being treated as merely a checkbox, rather than a significant contribution to public understanding of the implementation of laws that impact migrant communities in our county.

Public interest was abundantly clear when masses of local SB54 defenders rallied at City Council meetings in Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and Simi Valley to support SB54 and oppose efforts to bully these cities into attaching themselves to the Trump administration's lawsuit against the California Values Act. Two city councils made the wise, conservative decision to stay out of it. In Simi Valley, the Council took the radical decision to file an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit challenging SB54 despite the overwhelming majority of public comments opposing that move. The US Supreme Court subsequently rejected the Trump administration challenge to the law.

We are facing two public health crises, COVID-19 and racism, which you acknowledged with your resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. Both crises relate to the involvement of local law enforcement with ICE. COVID-19 is running rampant inside ICE facilities. People transferred to ICE custody are vulnerable to grave illness or death. Further, the Trump administration's relentless attacks on immigrant communities and deployment of ICE to carry out that agenda are clearly poisoned by racism. There are so many blatant examples, such as Trump's attack on federal judge Gonzalo Curiel, who Trump said could not be impartial because he is "Mexican." I call on you to reject xenophobia and carry out your pledge to make our County a place of racial equity.

Six counties in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, Humboldt, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin - have decided not to work with ICE. I call for our Sheriff and Board of Supervisors to follow their leadership and to cease cooperating voluntarily with ICE and its efforts to target, detain, and deport Ventura County residents. I don't want our local officials to assist in enforcing a dysfunctional immigration policy for the federal government.

Respectfully,

Willie Lubka

