

**Key, Lori**

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**From:** Gordon Clint <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard  
**Cc:** Willie Lubka  
**Subject:** 10/12/21 Agenda Item #31-Law enforcement cooperation with ICE

The Board of Supervisors should insist that our Sheriff's Office end voluntary cooperation with ICE. Ventura County and our nation benefit from the labor and ingenuity of immigrants. Yet the targets of ICE have included not just undocumented residents, but immigrants who had legal status such as "green cards." Essential workers, business owners and all non-citizens are vulnerable to being deported. Fear of ICE and of law enforcement working with ICE runs deep in our immigrant communities.

As a volunteer with an interfaith group, I made frequent visits to GEO Group's Adelanto ICE prison where I met with many people locked up pending deportation. Some men I visited were held while seeking asylum; others had been green-card holders who told me they had been turned over to ICE after completing jail or prison time.

During emotionally charged visits with individuals from El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico, I heard some of their worst fears. Each man told me how the double-punishment of exile, to countries they had left as children, could lead to extortion, torture or death. One man in his twenties cried as he talked of facing deportation to a dangerous country he didn't know.

All were afraid that their American accents or mannerisms would mark them as targets for criminals. A detainee who had been born in Mexico explained how criminals there would torture deportees from the U.S., then send videos of that torture to extort money from friends and families back here.

Deportation is not just layering one punishment atop another; it can be a death sentence. This doesn't seem fair to me. If these people had been born in the U.S., they would have been able to go back to work supporting their families when they were released from jail or prison.

Ventura County's immigrant communities know local law enforcement is cooperating with ICE. And mixed-status families fear the trauma and family separations our sheriff's office can inflict upon their U.S.-citizen children.

Our Ventura County Sheriff's Office should stop working with ICE, as many counties, including L.A. County, have done. We are all safer when community members are not afraid to report crimes, and are willing to trust and cooperate with law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Gordon Clint  
[REDACTED]  
Newbury Park, CA 91320