

**Key, Lori**

---

**From:** Barbara Leighton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 11, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard  
**Subject:** Truth Act Forum

Dear Supervisors:

My hope is that you will listen carefully to community testimony at the Tuesday, October 12 Truth Act Forum. The impact of even minimal voluntary Sheriff department cooperation with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sends a signal to whole communities that our local law enforcement cannot be trusted. Mixing these two authorities contributes to generational trauma causing local people to hold back from reporting crimes or being witnesses. They fear further recriminations against themselves or family members.

As a concerned citizen, grandmother and person of faith, I have seen how trauma can have lasting impacts. Families and communities carry trauma caused by the forced removal of one of their own. The wounds may not be as visible as a broken leg, but the trauma can last a lifetime. Intentionally or not, mistrust, anger, anxiety and fear can be handed down through generations. Broken families have a harder time surviving economically. This can also impact physical and mental health.

I would like to see the Board of Supervisors declare, as you did with the anti-racism statement, that a priority of our Ventura County Sheriff's Office is to focus on building stronger, safer relationships with all communities, rather than voluntary collaboration with ICE. When people earn release from prison or jail, they are vulnerable. Their best chance of rebuilding their lives is with support from family and community. When the Sheriff department's ties with ICE appear to have higher priority than ties to local communities, they lose the cooperation and trust of people they are supposed to serve.

Our best chance of thriving through future challenges comes through humanizing ourselves and others to build healing and healthy relationships. Resilience and constructive actions are critical to helping communities overcome problems. Through lived experience, I am grateful to have learned that people can help each other rebuild their lives. We are all stronger when we work together.

Sincerely,

Barbara Leighton  
[REDACTED]  
Newbury Park, CA 91320