

From: [Julie Morris](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: TRUTH Forum October 11
Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022 6:12:27 PM

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Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

Thank you for your service to our community. I continue to join with you in mourning the loss of your colleague, Carmen Ramirez.

I understand that on Tuesday, October 11, you will hear Sheriff Ayub's annual presentation. I respect Sheriff Ayub and all the courageous men and women who work in law enforcement. My congregation (Mount Cross Lutheran in Camarillo) regularly prays for people who put themselves in harm's way for the common good. As a religious leader, I believe in the importance of community insight and oversight when it comes to policing, especially in matters related to those most vulnerable in our society.

I commend you, as the Board of Supervisors, for declaring racism a public health crisis. One way racism is expressed in Ventura County is in our treatment of immigrant communities. Ventura County is home to many immigrants, many of whom live in mixed-status households who find themselves in positions of extreme vulnerability when any of their family members enter the criminal justice system.

Intensified by the Sheriff's Office cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, children and families are traumatized by the fear of separation and deportation. Ask teachers, psychologists, pastors, and physicians, and there won't be a doubt in your mind that the terror and trauma are real and unconscionable.

Our police departments have worked to improve relationships with their communities following the murder of George Floyd. These relationships are threatened and the safety of all of us is compromised when local law enforcement voluntarily collaborates with ICE in ways not even required by law, making it less likely that undocumented immigrants will come forward as victims or witnesses to crimes.

I am asking you to please demand that Sheriff Ayub, and his successor, protect and serve all residents of our county. **Stop all voluntary cooperation with ICE.**

Thank you for working to protect the dignity, safety, and basic human rights of all residents of our county, including immigrants.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Julie Morris
Pastor, Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Camarillo, California

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