

From: [Barbara Leighton](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Item #50 BOS mtg of 10/11/22
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Dear Supervisors:

I support the "ICE Out Of Ventura County" (IOOVC) coalition in urging more productive law enforcement practices in our County. Voluntary cooperation of the Sheriff's Department with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) results in distrust of law enforcement by significant numbers of people in Ventura County and imposes double punishment unfairly.

In 2012, as a person of faith, I was involved in a course "Immigration as a Moral Issue." This course - plus interactions with community members, friends, subsequent workshops and visits to the immigrant detention center in Adelanto - helped to open my eyes to unfair practices that are costly and destructive. I am actively working to overcome racist practices, including some of our federal immigration laws, that have been part of my birth culture.

When an incarcerated person has served their sentence and has earned release from custody, a voluntary transfer to ICE by the Sheriff's department adds additional trauma to the individual, their family and community. This form of double punishment does not help a returning person rebuild their life. Family and community members can experience lasting distrust of law enforcement. Their resulting fear to report crimes or seek help from law enforcement can negatively impact the wider community as well as their own lives.

Instead, our local law enforcement should be focused on building partnerships with local communities and earning trust to lower crime and improve the safety of all neighborhoods in our County.

Sincerely,
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