



April 24, 2023

Ray Mueller  
District 3 Supervisor  
County of San Mateo  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Ordinance to restrict cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in San Mateo County

Dear Supervisor Mueller,

We are deeply troubled by your vote against the San Mateo County ordinance regarding ICE cooperation in the county and ask you to reconsider your position. Preserving this ordinance – without amendments – is vital to keep all our communities safe. The ordinance ensures that everyone, including survivors or witnesses of violence, can come forward to receive the help they need without fear of discrimination or the threat of deportation.

The amendments you proposed would only bring us backwards to a former policy in place prior to 2021. For years, impacted families, faith leaders, and residents across the county advocated to the Sheriff's Office and Board of Supervisors about the pain that this past policy caused to separate and doubly punish immigrant communities. During the pandemic, San Mateo County was the worst culprit in the Bay Area in its collusion with ICE. After listening to hundreds of community voices, the former Sheriff made the right decision and ended his cooperation with ICE in November 2021. Supervisor Canepa and Pine's ordinance, supported by Sheriff Corpus, simply affirms a policy that is already in place. It's time to move forward, and not go back to misguided policies that hurt our communities.

Opponents of Sanctuary policy, including the past administration, relied on criminalizing language to promote their anti-immigrant agenda. By doing so, they shift the focus away from systemic needs to improve the criminal justice system and mental health services, and instead cruelly scapegoat immigrants. Communities of color know that these are racialized coded strategies.

Your solitary "no" vote and proposed amendments signal a dangerous conflation between immigrants and criminality. And you are willing to ignore and forgo a much wider range of societal benefits that community members spoke out in favor of at the hearing on the ordinance, most importantly a sense of

safety, security and protection that can be provided to immigrant communities, afforded by this ordinance.

Numerous reputable studies demonstrate that "crime is statistically significantly lower in sanctuary counties compared to non-sanctuary counties." In contrast, the evidence of indiscriminate harassment and rampant racial profiling of undocumented Latinx immigrants by local law enforcement agencies and ICE is abundant. Colluding with ICE harms immigrants from a variety of backgrounds, including legal permanent residents, visa holders, people with DACA who came to the U.S. as children, and refugees who fled war and genocide. In addition, a functioning immigration process does not exist; there is no way for most of our neighbors and loved ones to "get in line." Most importantly, the county should not be colluding with an agency known for its human rights abuses and racist practices. We must put an end to a two-tiered system of justice that punishes our immigrant community solely based on their place of birth.

You stated that you had not seen any data or statistics stipulating that undocumented immigrants do not report violent crimes out of the fear of their own deportation. Ironically, you answered your own question because this type of data or survey research pertinent to the safety and welfare of undocumented residents is difficult to obtain precisely due to the fear of undocumented immigrants having to disclose their identity. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime stated:

"[L]ack of awareness of racial discrimination faced by migrants, compounded by a lack of disaggregated data by race, ethnicity, and migratory status, can keep such experiences invisible. The lack of trust in officials and institutions, caused by systemic and institutional discrimination, often prevents migrants from reporting human rights violations, abusive and exploitative practices or seeking health care, thus silencing their voices, contributing to further marginalization."

We respectfully ask you to reconsider your vote and halt any efforts to amend the ordinance, so that residents in District 3 can be confident that you will prioritize equal treatment and due process for everyone, including for our immigrant community.

Sincerely,

ACLU - North Peninsula Chapter  
Asian Law Caucus  
Belmont Neighbors Against Racism  
CAIR San Francisco Bay Area  
California Coalition for Women Prisoners  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
Causa Justa - Just Cause

North Fair Oaks Community Alliance  
Multicultural Institute  
Orange County Rapid Response Network  
Pacifica Social Justice  
Pangea Legal Services  
Participatory Defense of Inland Empire  
Peninsula Family Service

Center for Common Ground,  
Peninsula-South Bay Chapter  
Center for Empowering Refugees and  
Immigrants  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
Chicana Latina Foundation  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Coastside Hope  
Coastside Immigrant Advocacy Group  
Coastside Jewish Community  
Comité de vecinos EPA  
Communities United for Restorative Youth  
Justice  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance  
Daly City Partnership  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dreamers Roadmap  
Empowering Community Justice Initiative  
(Cinci OH)  
Faith in Action Bay Area  
Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo  
County  
In Our Care  
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity  
La Honda Indivisible  
La Raza Centro Legal San Francisco  
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County  
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Los Angeles National Participatory Defense  
Hub  
Menlo Together  
NAACP - San Mateo Chapter

Peninsula Interfaith Coalition on  
Immigration  
Peninsular Solidarity Cohort of San Mateo  
County  
Pie Ranch  
Public Advocates  
Puente de la Costa Sur  
REACH Coalition  
Reuniting Families Contra Costa  
San Francisco Peninsula People Power  
San Mateo County Participatory Defense  
San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Club -  
Executive Board  
Showing Up for Racial Justice San Mateo  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Silicon Valley De-Bug  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education  
Network (SIREN)  
Sisters of Mercy Solidarity Committee  
Social Action Committee of Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City  
Social Justice Legal Foundation  
Society of Helpers  
South Bay People Power  
Surf Equity (SurfEquity.org)  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The Grove Action Fund  
The Unity Council  
Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San  
Mateo County  
Tsuru for Solidarity  
University of San Francisco Immigration &  
Deportation Defense Clinic  
Urban Habitat  
Youth United for Community Action  
(YUCA)

## Research on Sanctuary Policy and ICE's abuse

- The Center for American Progress, an independent nonpartisan policy institute, released the statistical analysis titled, *The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy*. The report states, "on average, 35.5 fewer crimes [are] committed per 10,000 people in sanctuary counties."
- In September 2021, Human Rights Council of the United Nations released a 22-page report titled, *Racial and xenophobic discrimination and the use of digital technologies in border and immigration enforcement*. The report discusses the role of digital technologies in racial and ethnic profiling by Immigration and Customs Enforcement both in the United States and across the world.
- Santos Hilario Garcia and Marcelina Garcia Profecto, both undocumented Mexican farmworkers were killed in 2018 in Delano while trying to flee ICE agents, who thought Mr. Garcia matched the person they were looking for. This racial profiling practice resulted in two deaths of innocent hardworking farmworkers and heightened a sense of fear among undocumented immigrants across the state. There are many similar stories you can easily access.
- The ACLU and co-counsel partners have just recently filed lawsuits in California and Illinois to challenge ICE's longstanding, unlawful practice of ruses, i.e., ICE agents impersonating the police and using deceptive tactics to gain warrantless entry into people's homes, or lure them out, in order to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants. "In pursuit of this goal, ICE has used racial profiling and intimidation tactics that instill fear and confusion in communities and stoke mistrust in the police".