



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
3501 CIVIC CENTER DR. SUITE 329
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903-4193
TELEPHONE (415) 499-7331
FAX (415) 499-3645
TTY (415) 499-6172
www.co.marin.ca.us/bos

March 13, 2007

Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement Branch
Department of Homeland Security
San Francisco, CA

Dear Director ,

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for meeting with San Rafael Mayor Al Boro and Police Chief Matt Odetto, and me on March 9, 2007. We appreciated the opportunity to have a direct exchange regarding the concentrated enforcement actions by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Branch during the week of March 5 in Marin County.

The face to face meeting was important for us, so that we could hear firsthand the practices of your agency, many of which are at variance with anecdotal reports our agencies have received. The meeting was also an important opportunity for us to share directly with you how the ICE enforcement actions have resulted in widespread anxiety in our multi-cultural neighborhoods, including disruption of school services, extra duty responsibilities for social service providers, financial losses for small businesses, and a marked increase in the divisive community debate regarding the larger issue of immigration.

In response to the enforcement actions and the resulting impacts, the Marin County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing during our regular agenda on March 13 to provide an informational forum for the community, and to develop our Board's specific response to the ICE enforcement activities. The following points summarize the Board's key findings regarding your recent activities.

- 1) Deportation enforcement activities are mandated responsibilities of ICE, consistent with federal immigration laws. Reform of existing immigration laws should be directed to Congressional legislators.
- 2) ICE enforcement duties can be undertaken with fewer disruptive consequences affecting the local community and our public health and safety agencies. Specifically,

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there should be increased public awareness of ICE communication protocols for arrestees, family members, and public agencies. In addition, the needs of children must be adequately considered during and after enforcement activities, and schools and their related transportation programs should be off limits in the execution of ICE enforcement activities.

- 3) Deportation enforcement must be done using protocols that are not prejudicial to any racial or ethnic group.

Consistent with these findings, the Board is requesting a written statement articulating ICE enforcement practices in relation to the findings identified above. I look forward to continuing to work with your agency to ensure that you are able to effectively undertake your enforcement duties with the least possible negative impacts on our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors