

County of Santa Clara

County Executive's Office of Immigrant Relations

County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 11th Floor
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-5156



April 2017

General Statement of Values Reaffirming County Policies and Commitment to Immigrant Residents

The County of Santa Clara is committed to protecting the well-being and safety of all of its residents. With 37% of its population being foreign born, it is one of the most diverse places in the world and a Welcoming County since 2016. Unity, safety, due process, and inclusion are some of the County's core values. The County stands with all residents, and especially with the most vulnerable communities, including undocumented individuals, non-citizens, and Muslim Americans. The Board of Supervisors has affirmed its support for the immigrant community and appreciation of immigrant contributions in many ways. "Santa Clara County, the home of Silicon Valley, is a welcoming community that embraces immigrants and we will resist any effort to divide us," said Dave Cortese, President of the Board of Supervisors. "Immigrants contribute to the very fabric of our nation and we will not stand by while the Trump Administration seeks to impose un-American and illegal policies that undermine our values."

Santa Clara County is investing in multiple resources such as immigration legal services, other programs for immigrant integration, and deportation defense. We want all members of our community to know that we encourage everyone to seek information and services without any fear because of their immigration status. County agencies are also doing what they can to protect clients' personal data that they control, and the County encourages all residents to report fraud and crime without fear of negative consequences. The County is not doing the work of federal immigration enforcement agencies or collaborating with them. County staff that encounter residents with questions regarding immigrant rights and broader immigration issues can be directed to call the Office of Immigrant Relations at 408-299-6414, or they may get more information from our website at www.sccoir.org



Office of Immigrant Relations Staff

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

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February 16th, 2017

Santa Clara County Raids Response and Messaging

The Office of Immigrant Relations and the County of Santa Clara is committed to ensuring county residents stay informed on what is happening in the community. To that end Santa Clara County is sharing information with members of the community and organizations in regards to the recent reports of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) Raids in the County.

What is Santa Clara County Doing?

First and foremost, we want to reassure the immigrant community that the Office of Immigrant Relations is monitoring the situation in regards to any raids that may be taking place in the county. In addition, we are gathering all reports or information we are receiving from various resources and determining if any of these reports are true or just rumors.

In doing so, we are establishing communication with the local Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office as well as our South Bay Congressional Delegation to verify and confirm activity within our county. This will help our office and partners determine appropriate rapid responses and activate our communication platforms.

We will continue to communicate with nonprofit partners and trusted, reliable immigration attorneys in the community about any information or firsthand experience they may have about ongoing raids in an effort to streamline and provide accurate information to the community at large.

More importantly, we are designing and implementing a brief communication plan in the next couple of days with the Board of Supervisors regarding “Know Your Rights,” “What to do in the Event of a Raid,” and what information to prepare in case of a raid.

Overall, we encourage nonprofit partners and community members to:

- ➔ Contact our office directly to communicate potential cases of immigration raids in the community. Inquiries can be sent to immigrant.relations@ceo.sccgov.org or contact Supervisor Dave Cortese's Office at 408-299-5030 to inquire or to make a report.
- ➔ Visit our website for up to date information at www.sccoair.org or www.immigrantinfo.org.
- ➔ Our office further encourages nonprofits to continue sharing the following information to their clients and members:
 - “Know Your Rights during Immigration Raids”,
 - “What to do if ICE comes to your Door”,
 - “How to Get the Best Immigration Help”
 - Legal Service Providers in Santa Clara County

- Post-Election Resources
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) pro bono services and rapid response hotline: 917-981-8421. A backup number is also available (408)334-0298.
- ➔ We further encourage nonprofit partners to provide information in a language-appropriate manner that takes into account monolingual immigrant residents
- ➔ Nonprofit partners should further communicate with their clients and members and ask them to
 - Verify information about a potential immigration raid before sharing it with others over social media or text. They should ask the person they are hearing the information from if they are an actual witness or are obtaining such information second-hand.
 - At this time, we do not encourage immigrant and refugee residents to directly engage in confirming an immigration raid. Instead, we encourage concerned immigrant and refugee residents to contact your nonprofit organization or our office for follow up and confirmation. This is to ensure their safety and avoid them unintentionally being detained.

At this time, our office has not verified any raids in the county. We will continue to work with our nonprofit partners and our federal representatives to confirm and provide accurate information and appropriate rapid responses to ensure the safety and security of all of our residents.

Office of Immigrant Relations Staff



Santa Clara County is a Welcoming County!