

October 12, 2018

Attn: Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, Undersheriff Don Barnes

Orange County Sheriff's Department
550 N. Flower Street
Santa Ana, California
92703

Re: OC Sheriffs' Support for President Trump's Immigration Agenda

To Sheriff Hutchens and Undersheriff Barnes:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express strong objection to your leadership of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and demand a new direction – one that rejects “trumpism” within the department and the current administration's despicable immigration agenda. We demand a new direction for the OCSD that celebrates the California values of inclusion and equality for all under the law.

The OCSD – under your direction – has become one of the most visible proponents of the Trump administration's anti-immigrant agenda in Orange County. As groups that serve immigrant, Asian-American, Latino, Indigenous, and African-American communities, we find your support for Trump's mass deportation agenda reprehensible and unacceptable. The Trump administration has made its anti-immigrant position clear by separating families at the border; by stripping the legal status of over one million beneficiaries of DACA and TPS (Temporary Protected Status); by enabling white supremacist groups; and by blatantly targeting black and brown immigrants. Rather than respond in the interest of Orange County's diverse residents, the OCSD has instead consistently tried to undermine and circumvent efforts to protect California residents' dignity and due process rights through local and state policies. **Your support for 287(g) and your active opposition to the California Values Act exemplify the OCSD's counterproductive and harmful positions.**

For years, you led the department in defending the failed 287(g) deportation program, made famous by its biggest champion, the disgraced Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The program, which deputized local officers to carry out federal immigration enforcement, conflates immigration and criminal law enforcement and exacerbates the harm of racial profiling. In the context of the Trump administration's immigration agenda, the 287(g) program only serves to advance the dangerous objective of increasing ICE's reach and accelerating family separations. Fortunately, the California Values Act ended Orange County's 287(g) program. However, **Orange County's status as the last remaining 287(g) jurisdiction in California highlights how out of step you are with what Orange County looks like today.**

As the Trump administration rolled out its attack against the California Values Act this year, with the support of FOX News and the anti-immigrant hate group FAIR, the OCSD again sided with groups outside of Orange County and against the interests of our own residents. In a conspicuously-timed effort to publicize release dates, OCSD made clear its approval of anti-sanctuary efforts, and those of the orchestrated “hate circus.” **While ICE is set on expanding family separations, the OCSD has done everything it can to expand their enforcement capacity in the County.**

In the context of hate-mongering and immigrant scapegoating we are confronting today, the OCSD’s divisive politics must be denounced. It’s time for a new direction for the OCSD. We call on the OCSD to adopt policies that protect the safety, dignity, and due process of *all* Orange County residents. Specifically, the OCSD must –

- 1) **Stop attacks on the California Values Act; ensure as a starting point the robust implementation of California law, including the Trust, Truth, and Values Acts**
- 2) Bar the provision of personal or release date information to ICE; and reverse the policy of publicizing release date information
- 3) Prohibit transfers to ICE; and decline ICE entry to jails with a judicial warrant
- 4) End participation in joint task forces with ICE
- 5) Decriminalize minor and non-violent offenses

Most certainly, we will continue to monitor the OCSD to ensure your department complies with California law, including the California Values Act, and other safeguards afforded to all persons under the U.S. Constitution, regardless of immigration status. We look forward to your response to this letter as soon as possible. Please direct any communication to sgsarmiento@ndlon.org.

Sincerely,

The twenty five organizations signing below-

Korean Resource Center

VietRISE

Resilience OC (ROC)

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU of SoCal)

California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA)

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)

(Continued on the next page)

Women For: Orange County

Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE)

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

Yorba Linda United

Freedom For Immigrants

Colectivo Tonantzin

Oakview Comunidad (Huntington Beach)

California for Progress

OC Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Students Advocating for Immigrant Rights and Equity (SAFIRE, UCI)

Central Americans for Empowerment (CAFE, UCI)

El Centro Cultural de Mexico

Together We Will - Orange County, CA

Palestinian Youth Movement

Indivisible Ladera Ranch, RMV

Orange County Equality Coalition

March & Rally Los Angeles

Indivisible OC 46