



MARIN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Kenneth Casey
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

November 7, 2018

Gina Fromer
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Marin HRC Report to the Marin Board of Supervisors,

Nancy Johnson
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

On Tuesday, July 10, 2018, Sheriff Robert Doyle gave testimony before the Marin County Human Rights Commission at the request of the commission. The purpose of the inquiry was to question the Sheriff on his making information public about inmates who may be undocumented, to determine if he was following the letter and the spirit of SB54, and his compliance to that statute in general.

Matt White, Chair
COMMISSIONER, AT LARGE

Tom Wilson
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

SB 54, The California Values Act, prohibits local law enforcement from engaging in immigration holds, making arrests on civil immigration warrants, participating in the 287(g) program (which allows local law enforcement to partner with ICE on enforcement actions), making transfers to ICE, and allowing ICE interviews in jails. It also prohibits local law enforcement from notifying ICE of release times and dates of people from county jail, unless release dates/times are already publicly available, in which case that information may be shared with ICE.

VACANT
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

VACANT
COMMISSIONER, AT LARGE

Christine Shaw
STAFF

The Sheriff is operating within the letter of law by making release names, dates and times available on a website that is accessible by the public. This technically allows him to make that information available to ICE. When asked if he would reconsider this policy in order to allow people released from jail to reunite with her families without being funneled into the arms of waiting ICE agents, he responded that he would not consider such a change in policy. When asked if he would consider changing the practice, he responded that he would not. When asked why he would not consider changing his policy given that it exposed local immigrant families to being separated and local residents to being deported, he said that his motivation was always "public safety." He gave no further explanation or justification for this policy.

MEETINGS
2nd Tuesday of each month
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 410B
San Rafael, CA 94903

Sheriff Doyle also explained that, where the law gives him discretion, he exercises that discretion in favor of ICE rather than in favor of the immigrant community.

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We would expect nothing less in Marin than law policies which ensure public safety, but there is no evidence to show that a person who crossed the border without inspection is by definition a threat to public safety. This is a conversation that has gone on for a very long time and the Sheriff remains steadfast in his commitment to a policy that separates families and causes harm to members of our community. The Board of Supervisors has made declarations of commitment to the immigrant community but has fallen short of making a declaration of "Sanctuary County" thus far.

It is the position and unanimous opinion of the human rights Commission that, though the Sheriff is operating within the letter of SB54, he is not acting in a way that reflects the values of our community.

Marin is an island among neighboring counties that have declared sanctuary status. Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Monterey, Napa, Sacramento, and Sonoma counties have joined with Los Angeles County in making such a declaration. Marin has fallen short of making such a strong statement of support for our immigrant families.

This is especially important given that ICE operations have been increased dramatically by direction of the current administration in Washington, which lacks an understanding of family values. Immigrant families in Marin are numerous and contribute in many, many ways to the economy and to the cultural richness of Marin county.

Therefore, the Marin HRC recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Declare that Marin County is a "Sanctuary County."
- (2) Take the necessary steps (political or financial) to prevent the Sheriff from making public the information about jail release names, dates, and times, and also to stop providing ICE with that information, publicly or privately.

On behalf of the Marin Human Rights Commission,

Matt White

Matt White, Chair
Marin Human Rights Commission