

July 15, 2018
Eric Babson
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Dear Sheriff Ahern:

I am concerned by coordination with ICE. In its 16 years, ICE has become almost an extrajudicial police force answering only to the administrative branch of the federal government. Unlike a sheriff's department this agency ignores constitutional protections. Arrest criteria are vague and changing with last year's presidential directive vastly increasing the discretion of individual officers to arrest non-criminals. Access to bond hearings is in rapid flux. There is no right to council. Even due process is being threatened. Terrible punishments are being classified as administrative including indefinite detention, deportation and even separation from one's children. California has passed SB-54 in order to distance our law enforcement from these abuses and try to maintain the respect and cooperation of our Latino communities. The California State Sheriff's Association and in particular the Orange and Contra Costa Sheriffs have continued to oppose this bill even now that it is law and like those counties, Alameda has begun to post release information publicly, allowing ICE to more easily target people. While your reasons may sound administrative, the effect could be to undermine public trust and subvert California law.

Please assure me that you will support SB-54 and keep release information private.

Thank you for your thoughtful response to my previous letter. I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our constitutional protections.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson