TO: Sheriff Bill Brown

CC: Supervisor Williams
Supervisor Wolf
Supervisor Hartmann
Supervisor Adam
Supervisor Laviningo

RE: Isla Vista Leaders Support Getting ICE Out of SB County

We, the undersigned, demand that the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department cease and desist the publication of release dates of all people within the Sheriff’s custody. In a cruel attempt to undermine the California Values Act, the Sheriff’s office has only further perpetuated the historic abuse of due process and racial profiling.

Tangling our local governments with a heinous deportation machine is an endangerment to the civil rights and safety of all people. Not only do criminalization and racial profiling go against our deepest values as Californians, both prevent our ability of harnessing civic institutions at the local level — churches, self-help groups, community associations, coalitions and advocacy groups — as change agents to combat such destructive policy.

We, as a community, need to recognize the humanity of our undocumented community, particularly because of ICE and Trump’s persistent attacks on their existence as individuals. Many members of our community who have been formerly arrested often times are victim to racial profiling and discrimination — having more times than not, found guilty for a crime they did not commit. Much like any other citizen, if a crime is committed by an immigrant, they are to be held accountable for their action and not their legal status. The actions of the few should not be used to stereotype the whole.

When local police and sheriffs act as deportation agents, it further undermines the community’s trust and confidence in law enforcement. This makes our communities and families feel less safe. Consequently, people are less likely to report crime when victims and witnesses fear they may be deported upon contact with local law enforcement.

Isla Vista is policed directly by the Sheriff and has a significant population of undocumented residents, both students and families alike. We believe it is an impediment to public safety and trust with law enforcement to continue working with ICE.

Thank you,

Yesica Garcia & Xally Avalos, UCSB IDEAS (Improving Dreams Equality Access And Success)
Brooke Kopel, President, Associated Students UC Santa Barbara
Jeike Meijer, External Vice President for Local Affairs, Associated Students UC Santa Barbara
Aisha Khan, President, UCSB Campus Democrats