

Guillen, Dora

From: Felicity <felicitynf@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 11:29 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: 3/24 BOS Meeting - Comment on Agenda Item: 32 - TRUTH Act

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

My name is Felicity Figueroa and I have lived in Orange County for over 30 years.

The TRUTH Act forum is required so that we, the taxpayers, can make sure the Sheriff's Department is actually abiding by the guidelines set forth in SB 54, the CA Values Act, and NOT using county resources to do the work of federal agents. We need to make sure that all our community members are safe from actions deemed illegal by this act on the part of local law enforcement and the sheriff's department, which has already been successfully sued at least once for their overreach in this area.

I am extremely disappointed that, with all the information we now have regarding how ICE transfers actually make our community LESS safe, here in the OC they are still happening at a rapid pace. When it comes to notifying ICE when they can pick up undocumented inmates, nobody in California does it as much as Orange County. In 2019 & 2020, the OC Sheriff's Department transferred the largest number of people over to ICE of all California counties, twice as many as the #2 county, San Diego, which has a slightly larger population than OC; and in 2020 they transferred even more than LA County, which has three times our population. 2022 data shows that Sheriff Barnes fully intended to transfer 155 people over to ICE, although ICE only accepted 17, which demonstrates the blatant overreach of this county department. In 2023, OCSD referred twice as many community members, 302, to ICE and ultimately transferred 221. That's an increase of 1200%! The numbers went up in 2024 as well to 228; and last year, ICE transfers through ICE detainers increased once again by close to 9%, rising to 239 people transferred. In addition, 2025 transfers have disproportionately targeted Mexican, Vietnamese, and Central American communities, making this a racial justice issue.

There are multiple counties in California that don't allow ANY transfers from county jails to detention facilities, with absolutely no negative consequences. Those counties realize that transferring people to ICE after they have finished their sentences, been rehabilitated, deemed ready to go back to society by the parole board or even the governor, is both pointless and counterproductive. What good is accomplished by separating and shattering families, by depriving a household of its principal breadwinner, or by leaving American-born children without either of their parents to care for them? It is also well-established that when members of local law enforcement begin to act as immigration police, public trust erodes, witnesses do not come forward, domestic violence survivors will remain silent and even victims of crimes are afraid to speak out for fear of putting themselves or their loved ones in jeopardy. This puts all community members in danger. Not to mention the economic toll on our communities when our local and state tax dollars are being used to do the work of federal agents instead of providing much-needed resources for our own residents.

No one should be subjected to double punishment after they have served their time and are ready to become contributing members of their communities. The fact that this is only happening to people who were born somewhere other than the United States - regardless if they have lived here their

entire lives – contributes to the demonization and profiling of immigrants as untrustworthy, dangerous and more likely to engage in criminal activity.

In fact, it has been shown in study after study that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native born citizens. In years past, the sheriff has tried to make us believe that when people with detainers are not handed over to ICE but released back into society that many of them are later re-arrested for new crimes. Notice the sheriff uses the term “re-arrested”, he doesn’t say “convicted” or even “charged”. The sheriff can “arrest” whomever he wants; but last time I checked, we still live in a country where people are innocent until proven guilty.

The truth is, there is no need for our sheriff to be turning people over to ICE custody at all. LA County is now one of many counties in our state that have stopped transferring people to ICE altogether with no negative consequences and many positive ones: now immigrants in those communities have no need to fear local law enforcement: they are more likely to call police when they are victims of a crime or witness a suspicious incident.

These counties have realized the human costs inflicted on local families whose relatives are deported; plus, they take into consideration the taxpayer liability that happens when deputies make mistakes. In 2022 here in Orange County, we taxpayers had to fork over \$60,000 to settle a lawsuit because Barnes’ staff had illegally held one of our community members so he could be transferred to ICE – even though the DA declined to file charges. That is a waste of our hard-earned funds and also created a terrible emotional (and economic) hardship for the man’s family: because of his unlawful detention, the community member was unable to be there for his wife and kids and missed the birth of his youngest daughter.

It is up to you, our Board of Supervisors, to make sure that our county resources are used for services that allow our community to thrive instead of live in fear. Anyone who has served their sentence and been deemed completely rehabilitated and ready to return to society should be able to unite with their families instead of being transferred to ICE custody. Keeping Orange County families together, regardless of where they may have originally come from, is what makes our community stronger, safer and better for all of us who call this county home.

We are a nation that believes that people shouldn’t be judged by the worst thing they have ever done in their lives, that believes in second chances, that believes in redemption and the ability to make amends. Let’s remember that when we are making public policy for our county. ICE transfers are not mandated by law; they are optional. Sheriff Don Barnes has the discretion to end all ICE Transfers and truly make our community safer, just like has happened in other California counties. He should do so immediately. For the sake of every OC resident, end all ICE transfers now!

Thank you for your attention to this message.

Guillen, Dora

From: Mai Do <mai@harborinstituteoc.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 6:18 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: Agenda Item #32
Attachments: 3.23.26 Joint Letter BoS.pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please see attached a joint letter, signed by several community organizations, regarding Agenda Item #32 (Public hearing regarding Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds [TRUTH] Act) for the upcoming March 24, 2026 meeting.

Sincerely,
Mai Nguyen Do




Mai Nguyen Do, PhD

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March 23, 2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors
400 W. Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana California 92701

Re: Agenda Item #32 - Public hearing regarding Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds (TRUTH) Act

Dear Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our continued concern about the Orange County Sheriff's Department's persistent collusion with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Despite that contact with ICE has become increasingly risky for people, OCSD continues to voluntarily transfer hundreds of community members to ICE. The vast majority of the 271 individuals that OCSD transferred to ICE last year were transferred by OCSD voluntarily in response to immigration detainer requests rather than as a requirement imposed by judicial warrants.¹

ICE custody has always been deadly – but as the last year has shown us, those conditions are even more brutal. More than ever, OCSD's practice of continuing to voluntarily transfer people to ICE poses a risk to public health and community trust in local government. It is imperative that OCSD stop this wasteful and deeply harmful practice.

Sincerely,

Harbor Institute for Immigrant & Economic Justice
California Immigrant Policy Center
Alianza Translatinx
South Asian Network
Orange County Justice Fund
Arab American Civic Council

¹ Do, Mai N. "Safeguarding Which Communities?: An Analysis of OCSD's Continued Collusion with ICE," Harbor Institute for Immigrant & Economic Justice, March 10, 2026. <https://harborinstituteoc.org/ocsdicetransfers2025>

Guillen, Dora

From: Greg Camphire <gcamphire@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 4:57 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: 3/24 BOS Meeting - Agenda Item: 32 - TRUTH Act

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Hello,

My name is Greg and I am a resident from Santa Ana. The TRUTH Act is about transparency and trust.

For many in our community, interactions with immigration enforcement have left lasting impacts on families. Last summer, when our city was being occupied by the National Guard, my family and I witnessed the kidnapping of an unarmed resident by masked ICE officers, who shoved him in an unmarked vehicle while he pleaded for help. Unfortunately, this was just one of many similar attacks occurring across Southern California that have a chilling similarity with the fascist Gestapo secret police squads of Nazi Germany.

While our community members were being brutally abducted by DHS on the streets in 2025, the Sheriff doubled down on their enforcement to arrest community members they would then filter into the deportation pipeline. This is not just immigration enforcement—it is racial disparity embedded in the system.

While the [SB 54 \(VALUES Act\)](#) is effective in prohibiting notification between local police and ICE, but this state law is under attack. Orange County has been caught holding people illegally just to wait for ICE. A minute past a person's release time is a minute of unlawful imprisonment. We demand an end to these 'courtesy holds' that violate the California Values Act.

You cannot build public safety on a foundation of fear. We need 'Trust, Not Transfers' to ensure everyone—regardless of status—can seek help from trusted local institutions, many of them provided by this very county like the OC Health Care Agency.

The TRUTH Act is about ensuring that what happens in our communities is not hidden from the people it affects. Without transparency, we cannot build trust. And without trust, our communities are less safe and less connected. We care about this county and our immigrant families, and we ask that you listen to us on these important issues.

Thank you,
Greg