

April 14, 2016

Gregory J. Ahern
Alameda County Sheriff's Office
1401 Lakeside Drive, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 946124305
gahern@acgov.org

Dear Sheriff Ahern,

As leaders of diverse faith, community and labor organizations, we are united by our deep concern for the health and safety of our members and communities.

We see increases in police violence and over incarceration targeting Black people and a deterioration in jail conditions that threaten the health and very lives of those imprisoned, who are disproportionately Black and Brown. We see the criminalization of undocumented immigrants and their inhumane deportation which is tearing apart the fabric of our families. We see a growing militarization of police in our neighborhoods that parallels support for war and tactics of repression globally, often in the countries our communities have been forced to flee.

We call on you as the Alameda County Sheriff to change the policies of your office and move away from policies that support incarceration, deportation, militarization and the endangerment of our members and towards supporting the true safety and peace of our communities.

Together, we demand you:

End collaboration with ICE, including no longer permitting deputies to notify ICE of the release dates and custody status of people who have been held in jail in order to facilitate their transfer to ICE detention. Cease your participation in the deportation program known as the Priority Enforcement Program.

Desist any collusion with police in cases of police violence. Support transparency and fairness by providing families that are victims of police violence the coroner's report within 30 days.

Sever your contract with Corizon, a for-profit medical services contractor in the Alameda County jail whose neglectful practices and severe understaffing have resulted in the deteriorated health and even deaths of multiple people in jail. Back a full investigation into those deaths and accountability by sheriff deputies involved. Ensure good working conditions for the medical staff so that they can best provide care.

Withdraw your support and participation in Urban Shield, a program that encourages the militarization of police and uses our communities as testing grounds for tactics of global policing and the repression of peoples' movements in Haiti, Palestine, the Philippines and countries around the world.

Support investment and funding for alternatives to incarceration and community-based programs proven to decrease violence and harm.

We urge you to act immediately on these demands and restore the trust of our communities and the safety of all our people.

Sagnicthe Salazar
510-812-1426