



Jim Hart
Sheriff – Coroner
County of Santa Cruz

November 17, 2016

Dear Santa Cruz County Community:

With the conclusion of the presidential election I know there is a lot of fear and confusion in our immigrant communities regarding statements that the federal government intends on dramatically increasing deportations in the near future. I have been contacted recently by several school districts who report that children are expressing concern about being detained and deported at school.

It is the practice and policy of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office to not entangle ourselves with federal immigration policies. Sheriff's Office personnel do not and will not investigate immigration status. As your elected Sheriff, I believe it is imperative that we continue to build trust and we continue our practice of fair and impartial policing with all of the communities we serve.

Enforcing federal immigration policy at the local level erodes trust and causes fear in the immigrant communities we serve resulting in victims under reporting or not reporting crimes to local law enforcement. I am deeply committed to ensuring this does not happen. It is the job of local law enforcement to make sure our community members are safe and our children can attend school without fear. This is our job and this is what we will continue to do.

Sincerely,



Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner