

PUBLIC COMMENT AS OF 930AM ON JULY 16, 2025

Immigration

Why is there a public meeting on Immigration?

We love immigrants that is who we are. My family came into this country becoming legal citizens at that time.

So when the person is NOT here legally then they have a choice start the process and become citizens or they need to visit and then go back to their country.

Concerned constituent - regarding immigration raids

Dear city officials,

I am a constituent in district 4 and I am writing to urge the city of Santa Barbara to take a stand to protect those in our community who are most vulnerable to the federal government's harmful immigration raids.

- I encourage the city to inform businesses on what is allowable should ICE show up at their establishment - for instance, ICE may enter a business, but they cannot enter a private space without permission from the owner OR a written judicial warrant. It is essential that our small SB businesses protect our community and the City should help to make this information accessible widely
- I encourage the city to be outspoken against immigration raids/ICE. For example, we cannot celebrate the upcoming Fiesta/Old Spanish Days if we allow the communities who built this city and the culture that we love to partake in to be kidnapped and ripped away from their families. No culture without the people!

- Though I am unsure who has true jurisdiction over SBPD, I know Mayor Rowse has a close relationship with them. I encourage the City Council of Santa Barbara to push the mayor and Santa Barbara Police Department to not cooperate with immigration raids. The SBPD's mission statement is to, "provide for the public safety through the philosophy of community oriented policing." This means protecting our community members, those who live and work here, who make Santa Barbara what it is; not protecting these strangers who come into our city, threaten our neighbors, and hide their faces whilst tearing families apart.

I call the city to end all cooperation between Santa Barbara and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I urge Santa Barbara to join the ACLU lawsuit that began in Los Angeles against unconstitutional ICE apprehensions. I urge Santa Barbara to create emergency funding to support the local organizations, like 805 Undocufund and La Casa De La Raza, that are providing rapid response, food, immigration resources, emergency family planning services, etc. to our neighbors who are directly impacted by ICE raids.

After witnessing last week's raid in Carpinteria, we must take action now and put in place protections for our community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Comments for tonight's meeting

We firmly support a resolution CONDEMNING Salud Carbajal's HEINOUS actions interfering with the enforcement of federal law and his doxxing of an ICE official, leading to an attack on said official that resulted in injury. Carbajal should be PROSECUTED. No one is above the law!

We DEMAND that the city comply with federal law enforcement and cooperate in order to apprehend these criminals in our jails instead of in our communities. FOLLOW THE LAW.

Save the children

Dear Mayor Rowse and city council members,

Are you aware that 10+ children were rescued locally from sex trafficking and underage labor? Most were unaccompanied by an adult.

Are you aware that 300,000 children went missing from the influx at our open border?

Now you are.

Their lives were saved from a horrible, horrible existence.

Have you thought about their families?

The rescue mission of 10+ minor children from underage labor and sex trafficking was commendable and should be hailed by everyone as successful. A sex predator was arrested along with rescuing the children.

If local law enforcement was allowed to work with ICE, most of this confusion could be avoided. You have the power to make this happen. Situations like these do not need to happen. These deportation laws are from the Clinton Administration. If they were ok then, they should be ok now. What has changed?

What is happening in our state is not sustainable. California is choosing illegal people over our own citizens.

Legal warrants were defied. These protests and chaos are not helping anyone and are dangerous.

Some solutions, in addition to the above, which is follow the law from the Clinton Administration.

If you don't like the law, change it. Legal warrants were defied.

Initiate a guest worker program to allow people to legally enter the US—leave and return (ex. Bracero Program). Tech has the H-1B program.

Give the media the facts, this was a rescue mission—children were saved from trafficking and slave labor.

The media has slanted reporting which incites violence. The ICE agents were not the ones who fired a gun.

Please stop the hypocrisy and allow the sheriff's department and officers to work with ICE.

Save the children, uphold the law.

Immigration

I believe we should follow the law as it has always been. our ancestors entered the country legally and the process worked great!

I also believe that any illegal immigrant that has been here working in the US for several years, and has not broken the law should receive special exception from deportation.

This exception will help all the good people that are contributing to society stay here.

Special Meeting on July 15th Immigration

I wanted to add my comment:

Dear Council,

I want to share that I am deeply disturbed by the way ICE has come into our community and arrested people. I understand that the immigration policies of our country are complex, however terrorizing and using violence to address the issue is wrong. I want everyone who lives in Santa Barbara County to feel

safe to live and work here and pursue their goals. There should be an easy and legal way for those who came here in an undocumented manner to move forward toward a legal status. ICE needs to be held accountable and not be able to remain anonymous wearing masks and not having name badges. Other Law enforcement agencies are not allowed to operate this way. Our county needs to join with the ACLU/Los Angeles lawsuit against the unconstitutional ICE apprehensions.

Thank you for your consideration.

On Immigration

Good Evening City Council Members,

I write you all to demand that the city take action to protect its citizens. The Trump regime has declared war on humanity, civility and all that is just. The people have shown courage in the face of Fascism but we need the help of our local leaders. Local government is where the average person can still feel the impact of their voice and ability to hold their representatives accountable. Because of this, we the people come to you now to demand local resources to support our communities effort to defend ourselves against authoritarianism. We demand our police immediately notify the public of any Federal immigration operations in our city. We demand the city provide public spaces and resources for local activists/organizations to collect and distribute food and supplies to those in need. Finally, we demand pass a resolution condemning the federal governments assault on our community and calling for the immediate abolishment of ICE and redistributing the resources to social services, education and other meaningful/impactful government entities that actually serve the needs of the people. Thank you for your time! ¡Viva la Causa!

Immigration Conversation

I was born and raised on the Westside of Santa Barbara I have had the privilege of growing up around Oscar Gutierrez and working for Randy Rowse. I know both of them care deeply for our city and wanted to thank them and all the other city council members for holding this meeting today.

I am a direct descendant of one of America's founding fathers, John Jay, and I am deeply troubled by what I have seen happening in our community and across our great nation.

ICE has been racially profiling our community and indiscriminately taking people who look Latino off our streets. ICE continues to detain legal green card holders and even US Citizens. Further, the undocumented members of our community that ICE does take are not hardened criminals or gangbangers, but the backbone of our community. These are hardworking tax paying individuals who are, by and large, trying to work towards legal status. They have been holding down jobs for decades and adding value to our neighborhoods and our community. All while paying taxes into a system which they cannot collect benefits from.

ICE consistently violates the law by not identifying themselves, not presenting proper warrants for arrests, refusing to give reasons for detaining individuals, ignoring legal ID documents (like Real IDs and Passports) when presented, detaining legal green card holders and US citizens without attempting to confirm who they are, detaining US veterans and deporting their parents, keeping individuals in inhumane conditions in their detention centers, denying due process (moving individuals out of state before they can get legal representation), and when ICE finally export individuals the individuals are increasingly not deported to their country of origin. This is unacceptable in America.

United States law enforcement is supposed to protect and serve. Who is protected by ICE's actions? Not our community. No, our community is terrorized and living in a constant state of fear. Our neighbors, coworkers,

family, and friends are terrified to live ordinary law abiding lives because masked men may descend upon them at any moment for no crime other than simply having the wrong color of skin. Who does ICE serve? Not the constitution or the American people. They increasingly violate the constitution which is the bedrock of our democracy and violate the rights of the American people. No, ICE is protecting Donald Trump's ego and serving Donald Trumps every whim. This is UnAmerican and should outrage every patriot who claims to love this country.

We support our local SBPD and appreciate their work protecting our community.

However, right now the community's trust in local law enforcement agencies is waning. They are see first amendment auditors harass our already frightened community with racist and confrontational encounters. Police respond but leave quickly causing the community to endure these vile harassments alone. During these encounters residents were told to "be careful how they exercise their 1st amendment in the future." Meanwhile, when the national guard was deployed against its own citizens in order to protect ICE... we saw footage of local law enforcement clearing traffic for ICE and police staying between peaceful protestors and ICE agents who were trying to break into a hospital. When the community calls local PD to ask what they should do in the event a masked individual takes their neighbor they are told only to call if they are the one being abducted. Our community deserves to feel safe and this response does not reassure the community that they are protected.

When individuals feel like their safety concerns are not heard or valued... some resort to violence. We do not condone the violence. However, we understand that it is a result of individuals feeling like they are out of options to protect themselves and their community.

Santa Barbara can and needs to do better.

Right now we need our city to empower our local law enforcement to protect our community. Order our local police, sheriffs, highway patrol and other local law enforcement agencies to not collaborate with ICE in any way. Including directing traffic for them or standing between them and peaceful protestors. Demand that ICE reveal their agents identities and ranks to our local law enforcement whenever they are in our community. ICE agents need to be held accountable for every law they break while operating in our community.

We didn't choose to be at the epicenter of Trumps war against America, but it came to us all the same. The soul of America hinges on the actions taken by the elected officials in this room. The rest of America looks to our community to find the strength to resist against the persistent attacks against our constitution, in hopes that they can find their own courage. Or ... they may look at our cowardice and likewise continue to allow Trump to trample everything our flag stands for, "liberty and justice for ALL."

ICE's actions are unacceptable, unconstitutional, and UnAmerican.

We are counting on you to stand up for our beloved Santa Barbara and the United States of America. Please, do not fail us.

ICE Raids

Dear City Council members, County Supervisors, Police Chiefs and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff, Bill Brown. Please direct our local law enforcement to protect the safety of our peaceful protestors. Their presence, facing the ICE, etc. agents, could deter ICE from firing rubber bullets, flash-bang grenades and tear gas at our horrified and outraged peaceful citizens.

Thank you for your consideration

Re:Comment for Community Town Hall on Immigration

I strongly support the City doing everything it can to block ICE and other feds who are harassing neighbors families. We do not need a secret police in America!

If Santa Barbara officials and police can stand up for people, and block raids or at least make them more difficult to carry out, that will be great.

There is also organizing to find out where they are sleeping (what motels, etc.) and make it difficult to them to find rooms and also to sleep peacefully. Maybe the city can help by publicizing where ICE secret police are staying...

FIESTA PROTECTION!!!

I hope I'm not the only one reaching out to you.

But I'm reaching out to protect our Hispanic community during fiesta. Obviously the mayor and/or the council is not doing anything to protect our Hispanic community against ICE currently!!

I guarantee it is gonna be a complete revolution and there is gonna be violence if you don't stand up and protect our community mostly during Fiesta.

All of the mariachi players, all of the horseback riders and trainers, the vendors that sell the little confetti eggs & food etc!

What are you doing to protect our community against the violence that will surely come during fiesta???

Strengthen and Publicly Reaffirm Santa Barbara's Sanctuary Policy

Dear Mayor Rowse and Councilmember Gutierrez,

As a resident of the Eastside (93103), I ask that the City Council take immediate steps to publicly reaffirm Santa Barbara's sanctuary status and clearly separate city police practices from ICE enforcement actions.

With increased fear among immigrant communities due to recent ICE activity and county jail cooperation, it is crucial that our city stand as a visible beacon of protection and dignity for all residents.

I respectfully request the Council:

- Issue a public statement reaffirming the city's non-cooperation with ICE.
- Support funding or partnerships for immigrant legal aid and education.
- Collaborate with county leaders to oppose harmful ICE policies in jail settings.

We are proud to live in a welcoming city — and it's time to make that commitment louder and clearer.

Community Town Hall on Immigration – Questions

Hello Santa Barbara Representatives,

Thank you for having this opportunity to submit questions for City Leadership. Here are mine:

1. What is the city doing to protect Foodbank and other community supporting non-profits to keep ICE agents from targeting its volunteers and patrons?
2. How is ICE able to fly helicopters low over the community? Who is giving them authorization to fly this low over the area?
3. What is being done about the unmarked vehicles at the hospitals and other local facilities? How are hospital patients going to be protected from ICE?
4. Has local law enforcement (City and or County) provided license plate data of undocumented individuals to ICE?

5. How is City Council and the Mayor going to protect Fiestas?

Suggested Follow Up to 7/16 Franklin Center Meeting

Mayor Rowse and Council Reps,

Council needs to discuss, and then sanction, D1 Eastside Rep Wendy Santamaria for her really bad, out of control, confrontational behavior challenging Mayor Rowse, and inciting the Eastside crowd who attended Tuesday night's meeting on immigration enforcement.

Hundreds of neighbors attended seeking available answers regarding federal law enforcement from the Mayor, Police Chief, 805DocuFund, and other leaders.

Peace and calm prevailed until Santamaria chose to grandstand, making untenable demands of the Mayor, Chief and City Manager. As I watched and listened to her, and then heard zoomed in D4 Rep Kirsten Sneddon, their outrageous, unrelenting persistence could not be ignored. The crowd grew more emboldened, boisterous as a result.

If there is no consequence, young inexperienced Santamaria will be fueled to become more aggressive, more demanding. She's new to the Eastside and City; I think a previous resident of Lancaster, CA.

As you each know, the job requirements of a Council Rep are quite different from a community organizer.

After tonight's meeting multiple texts have been circulating about Wendy. Here's one: "Maybe Wendy seeks exposure by inciting fear thinking she's the AOC of Santa Barbara. Council's weak if Wendy's not corralled or deflated." Another: "Does she want a revolution?"

Good luck. Other than the above, thank you for a well done meeting.

Public Comment -

Hello Counsel,

My name is Lucero Milla and I am a proud Latina who migrated to this country as a 6 year old. I've been a U.S citizen since 14 years old thanks to my mother who studied that citizenship test day and night to pass it. I am urging our law enforcement to assist the community when being terrorized by ICE agents. We also urge that assistance is given to 805undocufund to continue to support the families affected last week.

Stand with Us — A Call for Justice, Healing, and Leadership

Dear Mayor [Last Name] and Honorable City Council Members,

I write to you today as a concerned member of this community, asking from the depth of my heart:

What will you do to protect the citizens of this city?

How will you transcend political indifference, social division, and fear?
How will you support the mental health and collective trauma that our community is experiencing — across race, background, and immigration status?

We are hurting.

The racist hatred emboldened by ICE policies and the rhetoric of the Trump administration has risen to the surface once again, exposing malicious intent and a deep disregard for the dignity of human life. It doesn't matter what our skin color is — white, Black, or brown — this moment affects all of us.

This is your time to lead with courage.

This is your time to rise beyond bureaucracy and stand for justice.

This is your moment to leave a legacy rooted in truth, compassion, and equity.

We, the people of this community, are counting on you — not just as elected officials, but as human beings with the power to shape what is possible.

Please tell us:

- What concrete steps will you take to ensure the safety and dignity of all our residents?
- How will you address the rising fear, racial tension, and emotional pain in our neighborhoods?
- Will you use your voice to oppose hate, or remain silent in the face of it?

History will remember what you did in this moment. We will too.

Public Comment: SBSC Chamber July 15 Community Town Hall on Immigration

Hello,

Please see the attached (and below) public comment from the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce for tonight's special council meeting re: the Community Town Hall on Immigration, to be distributed to the City Council and entered into the public record.

STATEMENT FROM THE SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In Response to Recent ICE Raids in our Community

July 14, 2025

Recent immigration enforcement activities in Carpinteria have generated significant concern among residents, business owners, and local officials, prompting the need for thoughtful dialogue and action. The Chamber encourages policymakers to consider comprehensive approaches that balance legal obligations with community realities, recognizing that local businesses depend on consistent workforce availability and predictable operating conditions as well as community wellbeing.

Clear communication between federal agencies and local officials can help minimize confusion and ensure enforcement activities don't interfere with essential community services and business operations. Equally important, all members of our community, employees, customers, or neighbors, should be able to go about their daily lives with a basic expectation of dignity and due process. Whatever one's views on immigration policy, most of us share common goals of safe neighborhoods, thriving local businesses, and a community where families can plan for their future.

Our members have shared their thoughts and concerns about recent immigration issues and their effects on our businesses, workforce, and broader community. These conversations have been candid, heartfelt, and deeply personal.

The Chamber's role is to listen, convene more conversations, research, and provide support to our members and the community. In our mission to support economic growth and opportunity for all, our immediate response is to provide resources and information to help navigate these complex challenges.

We know this is a complicated issue, and we know there are many perspectives. We also know that we, as a business community, are stronger when we work together with collaboration and understanding. While the Chamber does not set federal policy, we are committed to providing feedback to policy leaders about this significant disruption to legally permitted businesses.

We have gathered several resources to help navigate the potential impacts on businesses and will update these resources as more become available.

As we continue to evolve these discussions, let's lead with the values that define us—empathy, respect, and a commitment to solutions that strengthen both our businesses and our community.