



City of Huntington Beach

2000 Main Street • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Gil Coerper
Mayor

May 29, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA. 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

RE: "ICE IN ORANGE COUNTY"

Please accept the following response in accordance with California Penal Code 933.05 (a) and (b) to the "Orange County Grand Jury Report: "ICE in Orange County."

Since March 1, 2007, the Huntington Beach Police Department has had a working relationship with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) to screen certain foreign born arrestees who are brought into our city's jail facility. The goal in establishing the relationship with ICE was to bring the police department closer in line with law enforcement standards and more specifically to improve public safety for the residents and visitors of our community.

The police department does not feel there is a need for a full time ICE agent assigned to our jail due to the low number of foreign born arrestees brought into the jail facility by our officers. The police department also has no desire to have any of their officers trained to act as ICE agents. However, we believe it is important for those brought into the facility to be screened if they meet the following criteria:

Whenever a foreign born suspect is arrested by the Huntington Beach Police Department for crimes involving any felony or any misdemeanor involving violence, the threat of violence or any violation that endangers public safety.

Once it is determined that a foreign born arrestee meets the above criteria, the jail staff makes notification to ICE. ICE personnel make a determination regarding the arrestee's immigration status and may, based upon their review, place an immigration detainer on the arrestee. The immigration detainer will result in ICE personnel being notified prior to the arrestee being released from custody.

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In the first two months the police department began the notifications to ICE, there were 33 notifications to ICE regarding foreign-born arrestees who fit the above mentioned criteria. Of those 33, ICE agents placed detainers on 24 individuals.

The city has not fully implemented recommendation R-3 in the Grand Jury Report "ICE in Orange County" because we do not notify ICE of all foreign born people booked into the Huntington Beach jail. The city believes that the policy implemented by our police department of notifying ICE officials of all felonies and all misdemeanors that endanger public safety is fair to residents and visitors and represents the best method in preserving public safety within our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gil Coerper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Gil Coerper
Mayor