



January 25, 2017

The Honorable Sally Hernandez  
Travis County Sheriff  
P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Sheriff Hernandez:

In your January 20<sup>th</sup> video regarding the Travis County Sheriff's Office new policy on handling suspected criminal illegal aliens in coordination with federal agencies and statutes, you announced your intention to only honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers that affect suspects booked on charges of capital murder, aggravated sexual assault, and continuous smuggling of persons. Furthermore, you announced that your office would not cooperate or comply with ICE investigations unless a judicial warrant or court order is presented and meets your approval.

This is a reckless and blatant political stunt that not only prohibits law enforcement officers from doing their job, but also jeopardizes the safety of the citizens of Travis County. As you are well aware, successful law enforcement requires the coordination and cooperation of many agencies and entities across all levels of government.

By announcing your intention to selectively choose which laws you will enforce and creating arbitrary criteria for when, and if, you will cooperate with other law enforcement agencies, you have forsaken your primary duty as sheriff of Travis County and are jeopardizing the very citizens you were elected to protect.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and as reported by the Texas Department of Public Safety, there have been over 210,000 criminal illegal aliens processed in Texas jails since June 1, 2011. These individuals have been charged with more than 559,000 crimes, including over 16,000 counts of burglary, nearly 700 counts of kidnapping, and nearly 67,000 counts of drug charges. Your actions do not serve the interests of Texas residents and citizens, but rather invite illegal and criminal activity.

As members of the Texas Senate, we stand with Governor Greg Abbott and strongly condemn this lawless 'sanctuary' policy and demand that you rescind it immediately. With the filing of Senate Bill 4, the senate has prepared to act quickly on legislation that will prevent such irresponsible actions and ultimately put an end to sanctuary cities in Texas. You should rescind this order prior to its implementation on February 1<sup>st</sup> as your office's refusal to cooperate with federal law enforcement agencies is bad policy for the citizens of Texas.

Signed,

Sen. Paul Bettencourt  
Sen. Brian Birdwell  
Sen. Dawn Buckingham  
Sen. Konni Burton  
Sen. Donna Campbell  
Sen. Brandon Creighton  
Sen. Craig Estes

Sen. Bob Hall  
Sen. Kelly Hancock  
Sen. Don Huffines  
Sen. Joan Huffman  
Sen. Bryan Hughes  
Sen. Lois Kolkhorst  
Sen. Jane Nelson

Sen. Robert Nichols  
Sen. Charles Perry  
Sen. Charles Schwertner  
Sen. Kel Seliger  
Sen. Larry Taylor  
Sen. Van Taylor