



February 23, 2017

David Marin
Deputy Field Office Director
Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
300 N. Los Angeles Street, Room 7631
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Marin:

According to a *Los Angeles Times* report, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents operating in Los Angeles have identified themselves as "police" officers in the course of immigration investigations and enforcement. The purpose of this letter is to urge in the strongest possible terms that ICE immediately cease this practice in our city.

For forty years, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles City Attorney's office have worked to gain the trust, respect and cooperation of all our city's residents. This hard-won confidence makes all of Los Angeles safer, encouraging witnesses and victims of crime to come forward irrespective of their immigration status. Indeed, the LAPD manual states that participation by undocumented residents in police activities serves to "increase the Department's ability to protect and serve the entire community." The same holds true for interactions between undocumented residents and the City Attorney's prosecutors.

As a result, when ICE agents targeting immigrants identify themselves only as "police" officers, they undermine decades of this work, eroding public safety in our city. In Los Angeles, the term "police" is synonymous with the Los Angeles Police Department, so for ICE agents to represent themselves as police misleads the public into believing they are interacting with LAPD. This is especially corrosive given that to advance public safety, LAPD does not initiate police action with the objective of determining a person's immigration status.

In sum, decades of experience by LAPD and City Attorney prosecutors demonstrate the city we serve will be less safe if any member of our large and diverse immigrant population is driven underground, dissuaded from providing valuable information and cooperation because they fear contact with our own police force.

Especially in these turbulent and uncertain times, we urge that ICE agents operating in Los Angeles immediately stop representing they are "police" officers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Garcetti'.

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Feuer'.

Mike Feuer
City Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb J. Wesson'.

Herb J. Wesson
President, Los Angeles City Council

Cc: John F. Kelly, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security