



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.scclatinoaffairs.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Wednesday, April 1, 2026
TIME: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

****As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.****

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approve *February 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment
Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on an issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
4. New Business/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 4.1. Latino Representation in Sergeant and Special Assignments Update (*Sheriff Chris Clark*)
 - 4.2. Officer Elections
 - 4.3. SCCC Chapter 10.07 Use Of County Property For Civil Immigration Enforcement Prohibited
 - 4.4. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Hispanic Heritage Month Subcommittee
 - 4.5. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule
5. Commissioner District/City Reports
 - 5.1. District 1 (*Flores-Martinez*)
 - 5.2. District 2 (*Sanchez*)
 - 5.3. District 3 (*Flores*)
 - 5.4. District 4 (*De Santos*)
 - 5.5. District 5 (*Longoria*)
 - 5.6. Santa Cruz City (*Nevarez, Contreras*)
 - 5.7. Watsonville City (*Lopez, Rocha*)
6. Staff Report
7. Correspondence
8. Adjournment

Next Meeting Scheduled for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, June 3, 2026

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 or TTY/TDD: 711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

TIME: 6:00PM

LOCATION: United Way of Santa Cruz County, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

PRESENT: Yadira Flores-Martinez (*1st District*), Oscar Sanchez (*2nd District*), Cassandra Flores (*3rd District*), Jaime Longoria (*5th District*), Emmanuel Nevarez (*City of Santa Cruz*), Micaela Lopez (*City of Watsonville*)

EXCUSED: Cesar De Santos (*4th District*), Bibianna Rocha (*City of Watsonville*)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)

GUESTS: Connie Moreno-Peraza (*Health Services Agency Director*), Sandra Hughes (*HSA Communications Officer*) and 7 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:07 PM.

2. Moment of Silence to Recognize the Many Individuals Who have Lost Their Lives under the Banner of Immigration Enforcement

3. Approve December 3, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Sanchez/Nevarez

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

5. New Business/Continuing Business/Action Items

5.1. County Health Services Update

Moreno-Peraza provided an overview of SB81 (new requirements related to sharing of medical information and access to nonpublic areas of health care facilities) and a review of County Health Services Agency (HSA) policies related to implementation and staff training. HSA began planning for implementation as early as January 2025 in preparation for the January 2026 effective date. They implemented a robust staff training program, as well as other activities including Know Your Right Red Card Distribution, Childcare Safety Planning, and other legal resources. Relevant HSA policies include HSA Policy 406 (immigration enforcement interaction procedures) HSA Policy 407 (staff procedures for responding to requests for HSA records). Concerns included potential data sharing between the County, State, and federal government; gaps in safety planning for pets; and whether immigrants are receiving adequate support to complete childcare safety plans, particularly given hesitancy to attend workshops. Longoria suggested distributing masks with Know Your Rights cards to help protect anonymity, and it was noted that mobile services are being implemented to better address community health needs.

Lopez arrived.

5.2. Consider Immigration Solutions Advocacy Letter

Commission reviewed an advocacy letter drafted by the Ad Hoc Immigration Solutions Letter subcommittee and amended it for clarification.

Motion to approve the Immigration Solutions Advocacy Letter as amended and submit it to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion/Second: Nevarez/Longoria

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Commissioner Reports:

6.1. District 1 (*Flores-Martinez*)

Flores-Martinez reported that YARR is patrolling the Live Oak School District and that the effort has been well received by the community. She also noted that a recent protest march was well attended.

6.2. District 2 (*Sanchez*)

Sanchez reported an anticipated decrease in Medi-Cal enrollment and emphasized the importance of supporting community members with the reenrollment process. Sanchez also noted an existing partnership with the Santa Cruz immigration coalition, and Staff can distribute a flier promoting reenrollment, if provided with one.

6.3. District 3 (*Flores*) – No Report

6.4. District 4 (*De Santos*) – No Report

6.5. District 5 (*Longoria*)

Longoria shared information about his background and work with the Public Defender's Office. Skypark installed a new play structure and development of a downtown area in Scotts Valley is anticipated.

6.6. Santa Cruz City (*Nevarez*)

Nevarez reported that the FLOCK cameras in the City of Santa Cruz have been disabled and are scheduled for removal, with UCSC identified as the only remaining location in the city where AI cameras are in use. A helicopter believed to be affiliated with Border Patrol was and several recent protests were well attended.

6.7. Watsonville City (*Lopez, Rocha*)

Lopez reported on recent city updates, including street improvements, the addition of new bike lanes, and landscaping enhancements at Plaza Park in Watsonville. She also noted that the City has been designated a State Cultural District, making it eligible to apply for related funding opportunities. A recent Noche de Brillo celebration took place including a snow machine among other activities. Nevarez is interested in connecting the City Council with *Indivisible - Watsonville*.

7. Staff Report:

Staff will invite County Health Equity Officer to update the Commission on healthcare disparities, and representatives from Your Area Rapid Response (YARR) and Indivisible to brief the Commission on their local activities at future meetings.

8. Adjournment

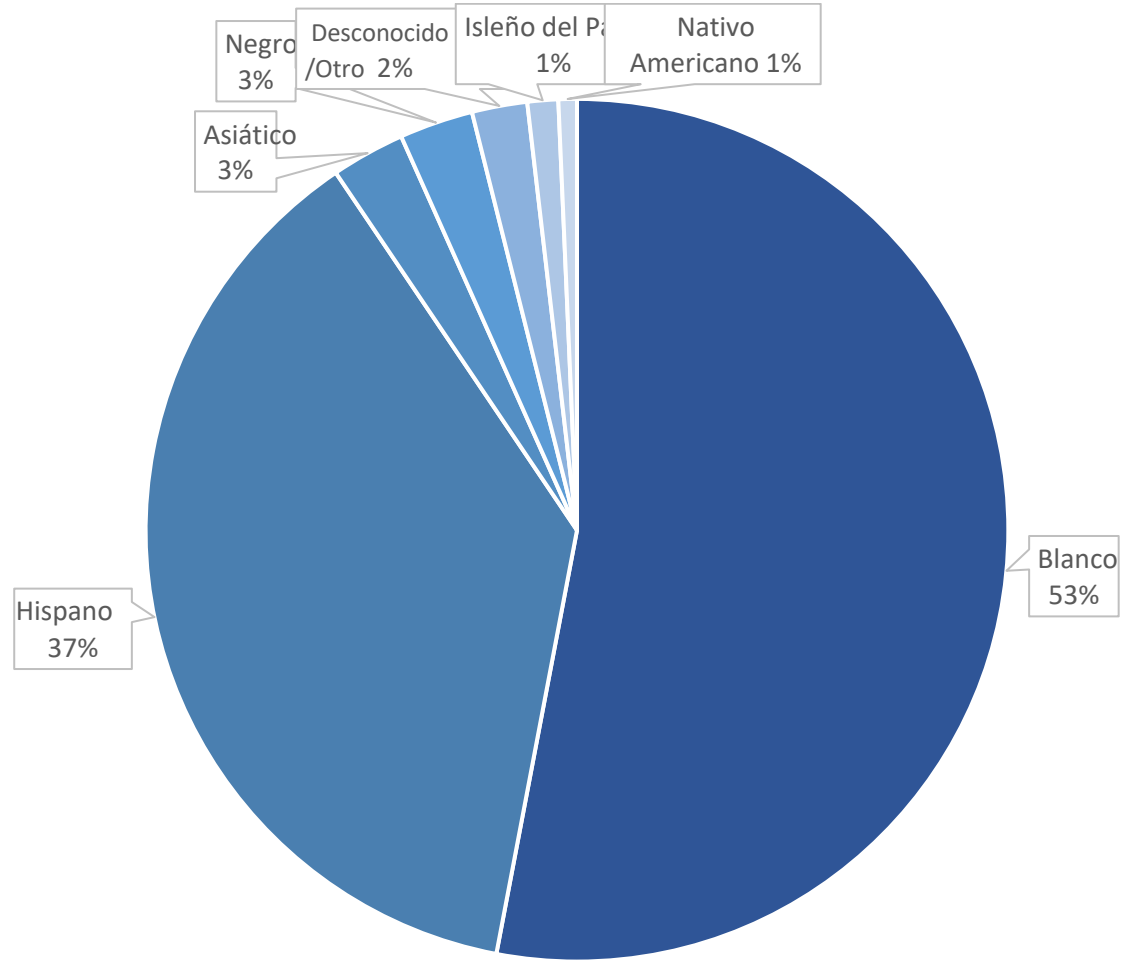
Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Cruz

Enero 2026 Demografía de los empleados



Race	Count	Percent
Blanco	230	53.0%
Hispano	163	37.6%
Asiático	12	2.8%
Negro	12	2.8%
Desconocido/Otro	9	2.1%
Isleño del Pacífico	5	1.2%
Nativo Americano	3	0.7%
Total	434	

Sheriff-Coroner's Office – All Job Codes

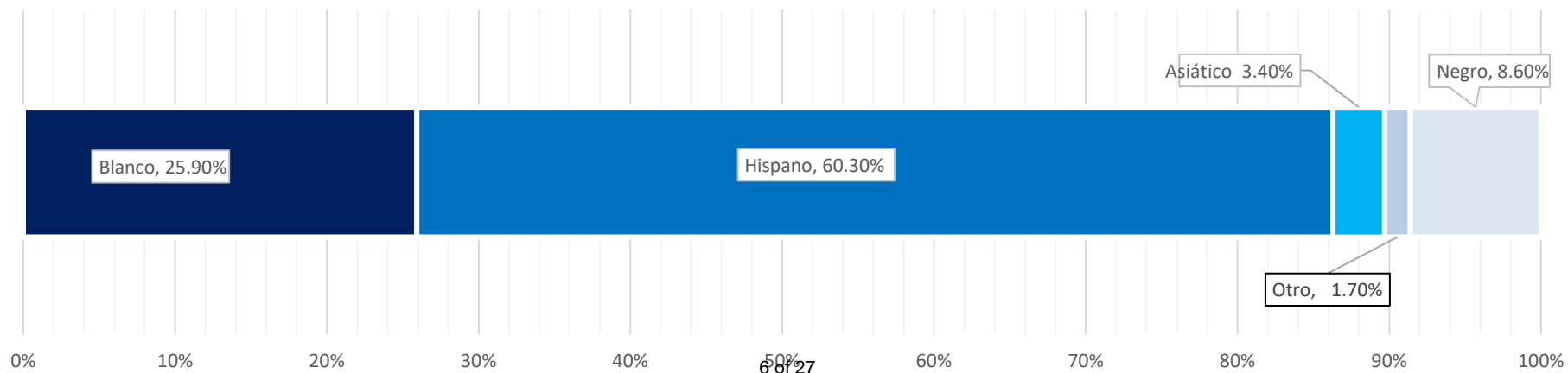
ORIGINAL DATA FOR COMPARISON

Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA Percentage	Comparison to CBSA
All	324	100%	100%	0%
White	160	49%	65%	-16%
POC	164	51%	35%	16%
Latino	139	43%	25%	18%

Demografía de los empleados

	Ene-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Ago-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Diciembre 2025	Totales	%
Total de la agencia														
Blanco	3	3	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	15	25.9%
Hispano	6	2	1	2	3	0	1	3	4	1	4	8	35	60.3%
Negro	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	8.6%
Asiático	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3.4%
Otro	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.7%
Birracial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total de contrataciones	9	7	2	4	6	1	3	4	4	6	4	8	58	100.0%
Hombre	7	4	1	2	4	1	2	3	0	2	0	4	30	51.7%
Mujer	2	3	1	2	2	0	1	1	4	4	4	4	28	48.3%
Bilingüe	6	2	1	1	3	0	0	3	4	3	4	5	32	55.2%

Demografía de contrataciones de la agencia, últimos 12 meses





Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Agency Demographics

Special Teams & Supervisors

Sergeants (24)

	Count	Percentage
White	19	79.2%
Hispanic	2	8.3%
POC (Including Hispanic)	5	20.8%

Lieutenants (10)

	Count	Percentage
White	8	80.0%
Hispanic	2	20.0%
POC (Including Hispanic)	2	20.0%

Special Teams (30)*

	Count	Percentage
White	19	63.3%
Hispanic	9	30.0%
POC (Including Hispanic)	11	36.7%

*excluding sergeants



Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Agency Demographics

Special Teams & Supervisors

Sergeants (24)

	Count	Percentage
White	19	79.2%
Hispanic	2	8.3%
POC (Including Hispanic)	5	20.8%






Lieutenants (10)

	Count	Percentage
White	8	80.0%
Hispanic	2	20.0%
POC (Including Hispanic)	2	20.0%

Special Teams (43)

	Count	Percentage	CBSA %	Compare to CBSA
White	28	65.1%	58%	7.1%
Hispanic	10	23.3%	26%	-2.7%
POC (Including Hispanic)	15	34.9%	36%	-1.1%

PEACE OFFICER CAREER PATH

Protective Services (Job Code 4)					Includes the following positions: ✓ Sheriffs Corrections Officer  ✓ Deputy Sheriff Trainee  ✓ Deputy Sheriff 	Technicians (Job Code 3)					Includes the following positions: ✓ Sheriff Sergeant 
Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA %	Comparison to CBSA		Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA %	Comparison to CBSA	
All	197	100%	100%	0%		All	23	100%	100%	0%	
White	91	46%	58%	-11%		White	18	78%	51%	27%	
POC	106	54%	36%	18%		POC	5	22%	49%	-27%	
Latino	93	47%	26%	21%	Latino	2	9%	41%	-32%		
Officials and Administrators (Job Code 1)					Includes the following positions: ✓ Sheriff's Chief Deputy ✓ Undersheriff	Professionals (Job Code 2)					Includes the following positions: ✓ Sheriff's Lieutenant 
Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA %	Comparison to CBSA		Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA %	Comparison to CBSA	
All	3	100%	100%	0%		All	10	100%	100%	0%	
White	3	75%	77%	23%		White	7	70%	78%	-8%	
POC	0	0%	23%	-23%		POC	3	30%	22%	8%	
Latino	0	0%	15%	-15%	Latino	3	30%	12%	18%		

ORIGINAL DATA FOR COMPARISON

Sheriff-Coroner's Office Special Teams Positions

ORIGINAL DATA FOR COMPARISON

Special Teams				
Race/ Ethnicity	Count	%	CBSA Percentage	Comparison to CBSA
All	40	100%	100%	0%
White	25	61.5%	58%	3.5%
POC	15	38%	36%	2%
Latino	10	25%	26%	-1%

This chart includes all staff in Special Teams which includes members from both the Protective Services Class and the Technicians Class compared to CBSA rates for Sworn Protective Services class. Special Teams offer opportunities for staff to gain the experience necessary for promotion in the peace officer career path.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4073
(831)454-2000 | www.santacruzcountyca.gov
Nicole D. Coburn, County Executive Officer

News Release

Date: March 6, 2026

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

S.H.I.E.L.D. SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSES ORDINANCE PROHIBITING USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY BY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS

On Tuesday, March 10, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will consider initial recommendations from the Safeguarding Health, Inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense (S.H.I.E.L.D.) Ad Hoc Subcommittee. The subcommittee was established in January to evaluate how federal immigration enforcement actions and federal budget changes may affect access to services and community stability in Santa Cruz County.

The Board will review the subcommittee's first report and consider an ordinance that would prohibit the use of County-owned or County-controlled property as staging areas or operational bases for federal civil immigration enforcement activities.

"The County's ability to deliver health care, public benefits, and other essential services depends on trust between residents and public agencies," Board Chair Monica Martinez said. "Policies that reinforce clarity, consistency, and lawful boundaries ensure residents continue to access the services they need."

"Santa Cruz County has long affirmed that our community is stronger when residents can access services without fear," said Supervisor Felipe Hernandez. "These actions help reinforce the policies, protocols, and partnerships needed to keep our systems functioning and responsive to the needs of the community."

Composed of Martinez and Hernandez, the S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing County protocols, identifying operational gaps, and coordinating with community organizations and regional partners to assess potential impacts of federal immigration enforcement activity.

The report describes several areas of work that are already underway. These include strengthening County department protocols for interactions with immigration agents, establishing Countywide procedures for staff when approached by federal agents, monitoring trends in service use to identify potential disruptions in access to health care,

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social services, and public benefits, and collaborating with community organizations, legal service providers, and local partners not only to assess risks to the continuity of services, but also to work jointly on solutions that protect and support our most vulnerable communities.

The Board will meet in the basement community room, 701 Ocean St., beginning at 9 a.m. To view the Board item and proposed ordinance in English and Spanish, please visit www.santacruzcountyca.gov/Sanctuary or www.santacruzcountyca.gov/Santuاريو.



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Fifth District and Fourth District

Subject: First Report and Recommendations of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee

Meeting Date: March 10, 2026

Formal Title: Consider first report and recommendations of the ad hoc Board Subcommittee to Safeguard Health, Inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense (S.H.I.E.L.D.), approve in concept an “Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Chapter 10.07 to the Santa Cruz County Code to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement”, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Accept and file a report from the ad hoc subcommittee of the Board to Safeguard Health, Inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense (S.H.I.E.L.D.) on its preliminary findings and recommendations; and
2. Approve in concept an “Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Chapter 10.07 to the Santa Cruz County Code to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement”; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to schedule the ordinance for second reading and final adoption on March 24, 2026; and
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the Notice of Proposed Ordinance Summaries in a newspaper of general circulation at least five days prior to the scheduled second reading and final adoption, no later than March 19, 2026, pursuant to Government Code Section 25124; and
5. Direct the S.H.I.E.L.D Subcommittee to report back to the Board of Supervisors on or before May 19, 2026.

Executive Summary

On January 27, 2026, the Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of an ad hoc Board subcommittee to Safeguard Health, Inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense (S.H.I.E.L.D.) in the context of increased federal immigration enforcement actions and federal budget cuts to services that disproportionately impact our immigrant community.

The S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee was directed to report back to the Board of Supervisors on or before March 10, 2026, with preliminary findings, identified near-term actions, and a proposed workplan and timeline for any policy items requiring further analysis or Board consideration. Accordingly, the Board of Supervisors will receive a report from Subcommittee members Supervisor Martinez and Supervisor Hernandez and consider the initial recommended actions of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee.

Discussion

The S.H.I.E.L.D. Ad Hoc Subcommittee was established to support Santa Cruz County's coordinated, lawful, and timely preparedness in response to increased federal immigration enforcement actions. Its focus is on internal County preparedness, including:

- Reviewing and strengthening County department protocols related to immigration enforcement encounters in County facilities.
- Identifying legal, operational, and policy gaps that may affect service access or County compliance with state and federal law.
- Assessing continuity of essential services, including health, social services, and public benefits.
- Exploring funding strategies and resource needs related to service access and community stabilization.
- Coordinating with other local jurisdictions, school districts, and regional partners on preparedness and response.
- Developing potential policy recommendations for Board consideration.

The Subcommittee will not:

- Replace or direct community based rapid response networks.
- Conduct or coordinate field response to immigration enforcement activity.
- Serve as a public reporting or emergency response hotline.
- Adopt new County policy without Board action.

Since its approval on January 27, 2026, the S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee has conducted an initial review of County policies and operational protocols and has identified both near-term administrative actions and longer-term policy considerations, as outlined below.

Reviewing and Strengthening Department Protocols

1. Department Protocols and Level of Preparation

In 2025, the six County departments most likely to be impacted by federal immigration activity developed and/or updated policies and procedures on how to prepare for and interact with immigration enforcement officers. The S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee reviewed these protocols from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Health Services Agency, and Human Services Department.

The County Executive Office is currently working with the Safety Officer in the Human Resources Department to finalize clear procedures for all County staff when approached, questioned, or observed by external parties (including immigration or other federal law enforcement agents, protesters, and independent journalists) during work duties, to help protect employee and client safety and ensure interactions are handled in a legally appropriate, consistent manner. Upon finalization, this policy will apply to all Santa Cruz County departments and sites except those operated by the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. The Safety Officer will also implement Countywide training to ensure all employees understand and consistently apply these protocols.

2. Data Collection and Privacy

Over the last year, the County has heard from many members of the public who expressed concern about what data the County collects and how that data is shared. On December 17, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution 279-2024 reaffirming the County is a welcoming community and a place of trust and safety for all immigrants and ordering that:

- Santa Cruz County resources are not used to enforce federal immigration law that targets individuals simply based on their immigration status, gather or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals, or collect personal information unless explicitly required by federal or state statute, regulation, or court decision; and
- County departments review their confidentiality policies to prevent eligible individuals from being discouraged from seeking services or engaging with County resources based on immigration status.

Pursuant to this resolution, County staff do not inquire into an individual's immigration status for immigration enforcement purposes. County staff avoid inquiring into immigration status unless it is legally required and/or used to provide services addressing unique challenges, needs and goals. When such information must be collected, staff explain how it will be used and protected under applicable confidentiality laws.

Many Santa Cruz residents expressed particular concern about the possibility that data collected by Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras – such as FLOCK cameras – is being shared with the federal government. The County of Santa Cruz does not utilize ALPR cameras within its jurisdictional boundaries. However, the Sheriff's Office does have access to a state intelligence center that includes data collected by ALPRs in other districts, including cities within Santa Cruz County. The data accessed through the state intelligence center is subject to the restrictions imposed by California Senate Bill 54, which prohibits sharing ALPR data with federal authorities, for immigration enforcement purposes. Access to the data by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office is strictly limited to a right-to-know basis directly related to investigations.

Given the level of concern about how law enforcement is using data – whether created by the County or not, the County Executive Officer has requested that our Inspector General perform an audit of the Sheriff's Office policies on accessing the statewide intelligence center and compliance with those policies. Such an audit falls within the scope of work contemplated by the existing agreement with the Inspector General.

3. Use of County Owned or Controlled Property for Immigration Enforcement Action

In 2025, federal guidance rescinded prior limitations on immigration enforcement at or near "sensitive locations" where people access essential services¹, including schools, courts, and medical facilities. Over the past year there has been an increased tendency for these spaces to be used by federal agents as staging areas and operation bases as they carry out immigration enforcement actions. Many of these spaces are owned or controlled by local government.

¹ Rebecca Santana. *Trump Administration Throws Out Policies Limiting Arrests of Migrants at Sensitive Locations*. AP News. (Jan. 21, 2025) Available at: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-enforcement-sensitive-locations-trump-ab0d2d2652e9df696f14410ebb52a1fc>

The Board of Supervisors has repeatedly taken the position that the detention and deportation of Santa Cruz residents solely on the basis of their immigration status interferes with the mission and values of the County of Santa Cruz³ to cultivate a healthy, safe and more affordable community that is culturally diverse, economically inclusive, and environmentally vibrant. A relationship of trust, respect, and open communication between County staff and residents is essential to advancing the County's mission of delivering efficient public services and cultivating a prosperous economic environment, opportunities, and high quality of life for all residents. Civil immigration enforcement activities undermine community trust, spread fear, and create barriers to accessing essential services.

Across the Country and California, other jurisdictions that also find civil immigration enforcement actions to be counterproductive to their goals have made efforts to prevent the use of their property for that purpose. The S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee reviewed a half dozen examples of such policies and ordinances and recommends taking similar action by adopting the proposed "Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Chapter 10.07 to the Santa Cruz County Code to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement" referenced in **Attachment A**. County resources should not be used in ways that undermine service delivery or public trust.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of County-owned or County-controlled parking lots, open spaces, and buildings as staging areas, processing locations, or operations bases for federal civil immigration enforcement activities to the extent permissible by law. It would not prevent the lawful discharge of duties in compliance with a lawfully issued judicial warrant or other order evidencing a judicial determination of probable cause on or in County-owned or County controlled property.

This policy would direct the County Executive Office to develop protocols to ensure that, wherever appropriate, physical barriers such as locked doors and gates are used to limit access to County-owned and County-controlled parking lots, open spaces, and buildings.

Potential costs may include staff time to identify County-owned and County-controlled sites appropriate for signage and access controls. The County Executive Office will return to the Board of Supervisors with a cost estimate for consideration and approval if necessary.

Approval of this proposed ordinance would be consistent with prior Board positions asserting that Santa Cruz County resources shall not be used to enforce federal immigration law targeting individuals based solely on immigration status⁴; the *California Values Act* (SB 54); and Resolution #26-09, adopted by the County Office of Education on February 19, 2026, which prohibits the use of education facilities and parking areas for civil immigration enforcement activities.⁵

³ Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. *Resolution 279-2024: Resolution Establishing the County of Santa Cruz's Commitment to Maintaining Trust and Safety for Local Immigrants*. (Dec. 17, 2024) Available at <https://santacruzcountyca.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=59435>

⁴ Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. *Resolution 279-2024: Resolution Establishing the County of Santa Cruz's Commitment to Maintaining Trust and Safety for Local Immigrants*. (Dec. 17, 2024) Available at <https://santacruzcountyca.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=59435>

⁵ Santa Cruz County Office of Education. *Resolution 26-09: Prohibiting Use of Santa Cruz County Office Of Education Indoor and Outdoor Facilities and Parking Areas for Any Forms of Civil Immigration*

Together, these actions reflect a structured approach to strengthening internal County systems, reinforcing legal compliance, and maintaining uninterrupted access to essential services.

Working with Our Community Partners in an Ongoing Evaluation of Service Continuity Risks

In addition to reviewing internal County policies and protocols, the S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee has initiated engagement with community-based organizations, legal service providers, educational partners, and local jurisdictions to assess service continuity risks and coordination needs.

This engagement is intended to ensure that County administrative actions are informed by on-the-ground conditions and that County efforts complement, rather than duplicate, existing community-led response structures.

1. Convening on Federal Impacts

On February 27, 2026, the County convened community-based organizations (“CBOs”), legal service providers, education representatives, health providers, and local jurisdiction partners to assess the impacts of federal policy on Santa Cruz County residents, including impacts that disproportionately affect immigrant communities.

The Subcommittee sought input regarding:

- Community level impacts and barriers to accessing services;
- Gaps in communication, outreach, and service delivery;
- Input on potential policy and operational approaches; and
- Coordination between County efforts and community based responses.

Key themes that emerged from the convening included:

- The need for a centralized, publicly accessible source of information clarifying County policies, facility protocols, and legal boundaries.
- The importance of uniform signage and consistent messaging across County and city facilities to reduce confusion.
- Concerns regarding declining utilization of medical, dental, food distribution, and public benefit services due to fear and misinformation.
- Interest in ensuring safe and accessible public spaces where community members can assemble and organize.
- Requests for clearer understanding of what guidance, if any, dispatch systems can provide when individuals encounter federal agents in the field.
- The importance of non-digital communication channels and dissemination of information through trusted community-based partners.

County departments have begun assessing service utilization trends and related indicators to identify potential early warning signs of service avoidance or disruption.

Enforcement Staging, Processing, or Bases for Operations. (Feb. 19, 2026) <https://santacruzcoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Resolution-26-09-Prohibiting-Use-of-Santa-Cruz-COE-Indoor-and-Outdoor-Facilities-and-Parking-Areas-for-Any-Forms-of-Civil-Immigration-Enforcement-Staging-Processing-or-Bases-for-Operations.pdf>

2. Other Outreach Efforts

In addition to the February 27 convening, Supervisors Martinez and Hernandez and their staff have engaged with advisory bodies, rapid response networks, and service coordination groups to ensure alignment between County administrative actions and community-based response efforts.

These engagements have included attending meetings of the Latino Affairs Advisory Commission, Your Allied Rapid Response (YARR), the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), the South County Triage Group, and the Santa Cruz Immigration Coalition communications team.

The purpose of this engagement is to:

- Clarify the County's role and boundaries;
- Identify areas where County policy alignment can reduce confusion;
- Avoid duplication of community-led rapid response efforts; and
- Surface emerging service access concerns.

Input from these discussions continues to inform the Subcommittee's near-term and long-term priorities.

3. Interagency Coordination

While the Subcommittee's initial focus has been internal policy review and administrative alignment, effective preparedness requires coordination across jurisdictions.

Future work will include structured communication with cities, school districts, the County Office of Education, higher education institutions (including UC Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College), the Pajaro Valley Health Care District, Monterey County, and relevant special districts.

Interagency coordination will focus on:

- Promoting consistency in facility protocols and public messaging;
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned;
- Identifying cross-jurisdictional service continuity risks; and
- Reducing duplication of effort in a resource-constrained environment.

Strengthening these relationships in advance of potential operational challenges enhances clarity, stability, and coordinated service delivery across the region.

Working with Our Regional Partners

Federal immigration activity and related policy shifts do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. For that reason, the S.H.I.E.L.D. Subcommittee has prioritized regional coordination to promote consistency, share best practices, and reduce cross-county confusion.

Since its formation, Supervisors Martinez and Hernandez, County Executive Officer Coburn, and support staff have participated in regional discussions focused on preparedness, service continuity, and interagency alignment.

1. Coordination with Federal and State Representatives

On January 29, 2026, both Supervisors' offices participated in a regional roundtable

convened by Congressman Jimmy Panetta, which included law enforcement leaders, health and human service providers, and employers from Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The discussion focused on operational impacts, service continuity concerns, and coordination across agencies serving immigrant communities.

Participation in these conversations ensures that local conditions and service delivery realities are reflected in broader policy discussions.

2. Latino Caucus of California Counties

Supervisors Hernandez and Martinez are active members of the Latino Caucus of California Counties, which convenes regularly to share information and coordinate responses among counties facing similar impacts. These discussions provide opportunities to exchange policy approaches, identify legal considerations, and assess emerging statewide trends.

3. Belonging to the Bay Regional Convenings

Santa Cruz County has participated in multi-county convenings involving Bay Area and Central Coast jurisdictions to share strategies related to federal immigration activity and service continuity planning.

These convenings are focused on:

- Comparing facility protocols and ordinance approaches;
- Aligning communication strategies;
- Sharing lessons learned from jurisdictions experiencing federal presence; and
- Identifying areas for regional collaboration.

Pursuant to Board direction on January 27, 2026, the County Executive Officer has designated key staff to participate in upcoming regional meetings and interim working groups to ensure sustained coordination.

The engagement and policy review described above reinforce that preparedness requires both internal clarity and coordinated external communication. Community partners have emphasized the importance of consistency, transparency, and clearly defined County roles.

Next Steps

The Subcommittee's next phase of work will build on the internal policy review and stakeholder engagement described above. Actions will proceed in phases based on legal review, operational readiness, and available resources.

1. Internal Readiness and Training

- Finalize and implement the Countywide protocol governing staff engagement with immigration enforcement officers.
- Begin department-level training to ensure consistent application of deescalation procedures, documentation standards, and legal boundaries.
- Develop a Concept of Operations (CONOP) to clarify County roles, interdepartmental coordination, and communication pathways in the event of significant federal immigration activity. The framework will adhere to state and federal law, incorporate community-informed perspectives, and focus on mitigating service disruption without interfering with federal authority.

2. *Safeguarding Access to Services and Facilities*

- Advance the proposed ordinance regarding use of County-owned and County-controlled property, together with fiscal analysis and implementation guidance.
- Assess facility-level signage and access protocols to ensure consistency and clarity following Board direction.
- Monitor service utilization trends across health, public benefits, behavioral health, and food distribution programs to identify potential early indicators of service avoidance or disruption.

3. *Community-Focused Stabilization Measures*

- Formalize a recurring Community Roundtable structure to maintain direct communication with trusted service providers and to assess evolving service continuity risks.
- Develop outreach materials for small businesses to clarify their rights and responsibilities in relation to federal immigration enforcement activity on private property.
- Explore options to support community-based partners who provide direct services to impacted residents, including coordination on capacity needs and potential funding strategies.
- Identify non-digital methods for disseminating accurate information through trusted community channels.

4. *Interagency and Regional Coordination*

- Continue structured coordination with cities, school districts, higher education institutions, special districts, Monterey County, and regional partners to promote consistency in facility protocols and public messaging.
- Engage appropriate law enforcement leadership and dispatch partners to review emergency response considerations and clarify life-safety priorities during federal operations.
- Participate in ongoing multi-county convenings to share best practices and assess emerging operational impacts.

The Subcommittee will provide updates to the Board as implementation progresses and will return with additional policy or funding recommendations as warranted.

Financial Impact

The financial impact of implementing the proposed “Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors Adding Chapter 10.07 to the Santa Cruz County Code to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement” is not known at this time, but is expected to be limited. Potential costs may include staff time to identify applicable County-owned and County-controlled sites, develop and install signage where appropriate, and implement related administrative protocols.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Monica Martinez, Fifth District Supervisor, and Felipe Hernandez, Fourth District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Nicole D. Coburn, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADDING CHAPTER 10.07 TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz has long asserted itself as an inclusive, welcoming, safe home for all its residents, regardless of national origin or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz recognizes that immigrants significantly contribute to our economy, workforce, community, and families; and

WHEREAS, a relationship of trust, respect, and open communication between County staff and residents is essential to advancing the County's mission of delivering efficient public services and cultivating a prosperous economic environment, opportunities, and high quality of life for all residents; and

WHEREAS, civil immigration enforcement activities undermine community trust, spread fear, and create barriers to accessing essential services; and

WHEREAS, the use of the limited resources of the County of Santa Cruz should not be used for purposes that do not advance or interfere with the County's mission and values; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the *California Values Act* (SB 54) went into effect, preventing state and local law enforcement resources from being commandeered by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2024, the County of Santa Cruz adopted Resolution 279-2024: *Resolution Establishing the County of Santa Cruz's Commitment to Maintaining Trust and Safety for Local Immigrants*, reaffirming that County resources shall not be used to enforce federal immigration law targeting individuals on the basis of immigration status;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

SECTION I

Chapter 10.07 is hereby added to the Santa Cruz County Code, to read as follows:

**Chapter 10.07
USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITED**

Sections:

10.07.010 Purpose.

10.07.020 Definitions.

10.07.030 Use of County property for civil immigration enforcement prohibited.

10.07.040 Remedies.

10.07.050 Severability.

10.07.010 Purpose.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the detention and deportation of Santa Cruz residents solely on the basis of their immigration status interferes with the mission and values of the County of Santa Cruz to cultivate a healthy, safe and more affordable community that is culturally diverse, economically inclusive, and environmentally vibrant. Accordingly, the purpose of this chapter is to ensure that the limited resources of the County of Santa Cruz are not used for the counterproductive purpose of civil immigration enforcement.

10.07.020 Definitions.

(A) “Immigration Enforcement Action” means any investigation, search, inquiry, or action undertaken to enforce Federal immigration law, whether civil or criminal, regarding a person’s entry or reentry, presence, or employment in the United States on the basis of immigration or citizenship status.

(B) “Staging Area” means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

(C) “Processing Location” means an area that is used for activities such as the identification, intake, processing of documentation, detention, arrest, or temporary holding of individuals.

(D) “Operation Base” means an area that is used to plan, coordinate and execute activities.

10.07.030 Use of County property for civil immigration enforcement prohibited.

(A) Use of County property for civil immigration enforcement is prohibited as follows:

(1) No County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, open space, or building shall be used as a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for Federal civil immigration enforcement activities.

(2) No County department, agency, officer, or employee shall give consent for Federal officials to use a County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, open space, or building as a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for Federal civil immigration enforcement activities, and no such purported consent by a County department, agency, officer, or employee shall be deemed consent by the County for any such use.

(3) No County department, agency, officer, or employee shall give consent for Federal officials to access or use non-public areas of County facilities for purposes of civil immigration enforcement without a valid warrant signed by a Federal or State judicial officer, or other signed writ or order from a Federal or State judicial officer authorizing such access, and any purported consent by a County department, agency, officer, or employee without such a warrant shall be deemed consent by the County for any such access or use. "Administrative warrants" issued by a person or entity other than a Federal or State judicial officer are not considered to be valid warrants within the meaning of this section. However, nothing in this section shall prevent the County, including any agency, department, officer, employee, or agent of the County, from lawfully discharging their duties in compliance with and in response to a lawfully issued judicial warrant or other order evidencing a judicial determination of probable cause.

(B) Exemptions. The above prohibitions shall not apply to any actions taken by a Santa Cruz County law enforcement official acting within the scope of their official duties or to property subject to their exclusive control.

(C) The County Executive Office shall develop procedures necessary to implement this ordinance. The procedures must provide that any County employee who becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of a County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, open space, or building for a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement shall immediately report such to their supervisor, who will communicate with the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

(D) The County Executive Office shall ensure that, wherever appropriate, physical barriers such as locked doors and gates are used to limit access to County-owned and County-controlled parking lots, open spaces, and buildings consistent with this policy.

(E) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as restricting or interfering with:

- (1) The execution of valid judicial warrants or court orders from Federal or State judicial officers.
- (2) The investigation or enforcement of criminal law.
- (3) The rights of any person or entity under Federal or State law.

(F) Nothing in this ordinance shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any County requirement, power, or duty in conflict with Federal or State law.

10.07.040 Remedies.

(A) Civil Action. Any interested person may initiate a civil action against any person or entity that uses County property for any unlawful or unauthorized purpose in violation of the provisions of SCCC 10.07.030(A)(1).

(1) No civil action may be initiated against the County of Santa Cruz or its departments, agencies, officers, or employees for any alleged violation of this Chapter.

(B) Penalties. If a person or entity in such civil action is found to be in violation of SCCC 10.07.030(A)(1), such person or entity shall be required by the court to pay a civil fine in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a first violation and in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a second or additional violation. Such civil fines shall be payable to the County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector. Any person initiating civil action pursuant to this section shall file a copy of the complaint with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within ten (10) calendar days of filing with the court.

10.07.050 Severability.

The provisions of this chapter are severable. If any section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or word of this chapter is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination of invalidity shall not affect the validity of any other portion of this chapter, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION II

This ordinance shall take effect on the 31st day after the date of final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____ 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES: SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

MONICA MARTINEZ
Chairperson of the
Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
JULIETTE REZZATO
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the County Counsel



Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.scclatinoaffairs.org

Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, regularly scheduled Latino Affairs Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: First (1st) Wednesday
MONTH: Every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December)
TIME: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
LOCATION: **United Way of Santa Cruz County****
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

****Changes to the schedule**, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scclatinoaffairs.org as soon as information becomes available.

2027 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 3, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
April 7, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
June 2, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
August 4, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
October 6, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
December 1, 2027	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.



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2026 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 4, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
April 1, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
June 3, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
August 5, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
October 7, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way
December 2, 2026	6:00 – 7:30 PM	United Way

Public Participation

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- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.