

From: Julie Castaneda
To: COB_mail
Subject: FW: Stonegarden, ICE in Pima Jail
Date: September 4, 2018 7:42:05 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 3, 2018 at 12:42:07 PM MST
To: <district3@pima.gov>, <sharon.bronson@pima.gov>
Subject: Stonegarden, ICE in Pima Jail

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Dear Supervisor Bronson,

Thank you for your reply to my previous letter on this topic. I have sent the following one to your colleagues and to the Sheriff.

Suzanne

9-3-18

We who oppose collaboration by our county agencies with CBP and ICE—whether it's a federal immigration enforcement agent situated in our local jail or the use of DHS funds meant to support the federal government's border agenda—are not just “a few dozen activists,” misinformed about the uses of Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) funds and blind to the dangers of life in a border county. We are a large and diverse number of Pima residents who have educated ourselves about the OPSG program and who are watching with clear eyes what is happening in our country.

The purpose of Operation Stonegarden is to “enhance cooperation and coordination among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to secure the borders ... emphasizing the role of local operational groups in enhancing National and State Homeland Security (such as the Federal Secure Borders Initiative and U.S. Customs and Border Protection strategies), increasing collaboration among all the levels of law enforcement agencies ... [and] supporting the activation, deployment, or redeployment of specialized National Guard Units.”

OPSG's national funding went up 54.5% from 2017 to 2018; of the three Homeland Security Grant Programs it was the only one to increase. (The other two programs are focused on terrorism prevention.)

Local governments perpetually struggle to secure the funds to fulfill their missions. Federal grants are sought, and in normal times we follow the required protocols and avail ourselves of the resources. These are not normal times: the Department of Homeland Security has been handed a mission to rid the country of unauthorized residents and prevent their entry regardless of circumstance or need. People with legal status, in some cases green cards and even U.S. passports, are being turned into unauthorized residents via aggressive enforcement of every technicality on the books. Deportation forces sweep up longtime community members and expel them without due process. Children are taken from parents in an attempt to deter others from considering the United States as a haven from persecution in their homelands.

Sheriff Napier makes a compelling case that Pima County must keep its "seat at the table." It's true that regional councils have some say in how OPSG projects are officially designated for funding. But the actions just described are those of a totalitarian state. Mark Napier cannot influence ICE or CBP; and he is responsible for the actions of his deputies.

It is time for Pima County to take a stand: Our local and regional law enforcement agencies will enforce our local and regional laws and will provide due process to *anyone and everyone* detained or otherwise deprived of liberties, rights, or property. As long as the goals of DHS, CBP, and ICE are determined by an administration devoted to reducing immigration and expelling all without full legal status (however that same administration chooses to define it!), our local agencies must declare their independence from the federal border agenda and from the federal agencies that carry it out.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Schafer
628 N. Third Ave., Tucson

