

MultCo Informational Session

Developments in Immigration Policy and the Impact on Local Communities

Background

On March 1, 2012, after meeting for over a year with local community advocates and listening raptly to a morning of [passionate public testimony](#), the Multnomah County (Oregon) Board of Commissioners passed a [resolution](#) requesting that the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement ([ICE](#)) [agency follow its own published guidelines](#) for exercising prosecutorial discretion in making decisions about detaining and deporting immigrant county residents. Further, the Board of Commissioners affirmed its commitment to continue “to work with the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, the local coalition of advocates, including the ACT for Justice and Dignity Network, appropriate federal agencies and our Congressional delegation, to address issues our community is facing as a result of federal enforcement of immigration laws.”

Why is this important to all of us?

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen sponsored this resolution in recognition that current federal immigration enforcement programs and actions threaten the County’s ability to deliver necessary social and public safety services; they compromise public safety and public trust; harm our children; devastate our families; victimize innocent individuals; and constrain immigrant communities from seeking help, such as [victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence](#) who are terrified of the prospect of deportation of the abuser on whom they are economically dependent; children and families who are afraid to seek mental health services and diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and witnesses to, and victims of, violent crime choosing not to use 911 services.

Update

Much has transpired since the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners took action in spring of this year:

- President Obama instituted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – allowing eligible immigrant youth the opportunity to legally work, drive and study in the US;
- Local ICE and Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO) Offices have not responded to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners’ information request;
- Bureau of Justice Assistance is using State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) dollars to increase volunteer cooperation between local law enforcement for ICE programs (E.g. 287(g) program – delegated authority for immigration enforcement, Secure Communities (S-COMM), Law Enforcement Support Center);
- New data has been gathered by the County that shows MCSO has honored 1,231 US ICE holds during a 20 month period starting January 1st, 2011. Of these ICE holds 84.8% are of a “Hispanic” demographic. 621 of these holds were released to US ICE. We do not have access to information, on how these transfers to ICE were resolved, nor why 48% of the 1,231 ICE holds were suspended;
- Immigration reform became a major campaign issue for this year’s general election (I.e. specifically, amongst Latino voters), and both parties in Congress are beginning to debate the nuances of stopgap measures versus comprehensive immigration reform.

Session Goals

Chair Cogen is convening community members, advocates, elected officials and federal agencies to share information about issues our community is facing as a result of federal enforcement of immigration laws.

We will bring together immigrants, immigration advocates, advocates for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, faith leaders, service providers, and elected officials from across Multnomah County and other parts of our region to:

1. Cultivate awareness and concern regarding the impact on our community of current federal enforcement of immigration laws: including but not limited to the impact of forced removals, detentions, and deportations of Multnomah County residents;
2. Work closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the local ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) to insure the implementation of Department of Homeland Security's directives, including but not limited to those related to prosecutorial discretion;
3. Advocate for Multnomah County children, women, men, and their families, whose deportation cases merit the full extent of prosecutorial discretion, including but not limited to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA);
4. Coordinate and share information on immigration issues and policy.

Invitees

- Francisco Lopez, Exec. Dir. - CAUSA
- Romeo Sosa, Exec. Dir. - VOZ, Workers' Rights Education Project
- Robert Brown - Oregon New Sanctuary Movement
- ACT Network Representatives (x3)
- Jackie Altamirano - Oregon DREAMers
- David Leslie - Ecumenical Ministries of OR (EMO)
- Raul Velazquez, Dir. Office of Hispanic Ministries & Matt Cato, Dir. Office of Life Justice & Peace - Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
- Pietro Ferrari, Exec. Dir. - Catholic Charities
- Kayse Jama, Exec. Dir. - Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO)
- Lee Po Cha, Director - Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizing (IRCO): Asian Family Center
- Joseph Santos Lyons, Asso. Dir. – Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
- Carmen Rubio, Exec. Dir. - Latino Network
- Gabby Santos, Program Coordinator – Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (OCADSV)
- Herman M. Frankel, M.D. Dir, Portland Health Institute Center for Building Caring Relationships & MultCo Family Violence Coordinating Council
- Jeff Cogen – Multnomah County Chair
- Deborah Kafoury - MultCo Commissioner, Dist. 1
- Loretta Smith - MultCo Commissioner, Dist. 2
- Judy Shiprack - MultCo Commissioner, Dist. 3
- Diane McKeel - MultCo Commissioner, Dist. 4
- Susan Meyers, Dir. - MultCo Dept. of Human Services (DCHS)
- Lillian Shirley, Dir. – MultCo Dept. of Health
- Scott Taylor, Dir. - MultCo Dept. of Community Justice (DCJ)
- Office of Senator Jeff Merkley - Oregon
- Office of Senator Ron Wyden - Oregon
- Office of Congressman Earl Blumenauer
- Office of Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
- Office of Congressman Kurt Schrader
- Sheriff Dan Staton – MultCo Sherriff's Office
- Chief Michael Reese – Portland Police Bureau
- Charlie Hales, Mayor Elect - City of Portland
- Amanda Fritz, Commissioner - City of Portland
- Frank Garcia, Dir. Of Diversity & Inclusion – Office of Governor John Kitzhaber
- Amanda Marshall, US Attorney – District of OR.
- Elizabeth Godfrey, Assistant Field Office Director - ICE: Enforcement and Removal Operation

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AGENDA DRAFT

December 17th, 2012

12:00pm* to 2:00pm

Location: Board Room - 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR. 97215

* *Lunch will be provided*

12:00 Arrival & Lunch

12:10 Opening Remarks: Jeff Cogen - Multnomah County Chair

12:15 Introductions

12:25 Review Session Goals

12:30 Updates: Multnomah County [Resolution NO. 2012-027](#) - Requesting ICE to Exercise Prosecutorial Discretion

12:35 Discussion:

- Impact of forced removals and Secure Communities (S-COMM) on our community *(35 min.)*
- New data on US ICE holds for individuals in MCSO custody presented by the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) *(25 min.)*

1:35 Next Steps: Discussion on establishing ad hoc Action Committee
(Possible areas of focus):

- **Communications with DHS & ICE Enforcement Removal Operations** - Follow up on local detainees, forced removal and deportation data with ICE and MCSO
- **Prosecutorial Discretion (PD)** - Recommendations to ICE on the development of PD criteria and local implementation
- **Advocacy and Referrals** – Review cases in the community of people who merit prosecutorial discretion, coordination of advocacy and referrals to services for these cases
- **Legislative Tracking & Policy Change** – Track and advocate for changes to immigration policy that will help local governments better provide social and public safety services

1:55 Announcements & Closing