

March 8, 2012

R. Scott Trent
CJIS Designated Federal Officer
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Mr. Trent,

We, the undersigned, call on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to end its facilitation of the fundamentally flawed Secure Communities deportation program. We urge the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board (APB) to adopt the attached proposal to mitigate the damage this program has done to public safety and community policing. The proposal would respect the wishes of states and localities that chose not to participate in "Secure Communities" and would prevent the implementation of the program in jurisdictions with a documented pattern of civil rights abuses.

Secure Communities is a wide-sweeping deportation program launched in 2008 by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. It has been sharply criticized by the governors and state legislators of Illinois, New York, and Massachusetts; local officials from numerous cities and counties, including the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco; dozens of Congressional representatives; many prominent law enforcement officials; hundreds of immigrant rights, criminal justice, and privacy advocates; religious leaders; and community members.

As described in more detail in the attached proposal, Secure Communities has caused widespread controversy because it threatens public safety, encourages racial profiling, undermines community policing, and serves as a deportation dragnet, ensnaring anyone who is booked into police custody.

The FBI plays a large role in Secure Communities by automatically initiating the immigration background check that sets the deportation process in motion for anyone booked into police custody. The CJIS APB approved this process almost two years ago, well before the problems caused by Secure Communities came to light. **It is urgent that in the upcoming August 2012 meeting, the APB Working Groups consider the newly disclosed information regarding the fatal flaws in this program, and adopt the attached proposal to mitigate the damage.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Jessica Karp at 213-380-2214 or jkarp@ndlon.org with any questions or information about the status of this request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for a Just Society
American Friends Service Committee
Angels For Action
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Asian Law Caucus
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Blauvelt Dominican Sisters Social Justice Committee
Bronx Defenders
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities
Casa Esperanza
Casa Freehold
CATA The Farmworker's Support Committee
Center for Constitutional Rights
Central American Refugee Center – New York
Central American Resource Center – Houston
CHIRLA, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Coalicion de Organizaciones Latino-Americanas (COLA)
Community Service Organization
Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility
Defending Dissent Foundation
Detention Watch Network
Disciples Justice Action Network
Drug Policy Alliance
El Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas
Franciscan Action Network
Grassroots Leadership
Graton Day Labor Center
Hayward Day Labor Center
Hispanic Resource Center of Mamaroneck
Houston's America for All
Houston Peace and Justice Center
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Circle of Justice, Sisters of St.Dominic, Blauvelt, N.Y
Immigration Justice Clinic of John Jay Legal Services, Inc.
inMotion
IRATE & First Friends
Ironbound Community Corporation
Junta for Progressive Action
Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic, Cardozo School of
Law
Labor Council For Latin American Advancement Central Florida
Chapter
Labor Justice Committee
Latino Foundation
Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Program
Make the Road by Walking New York
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Mennonite Central Committee East Coast
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Muslim Legal Fund of America
National Day Labor Organizing Network
National Employment Law Project

National Guestworker Alliance
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Neighbors in Support of Immigrants
New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice
New Sanctuary Coalition NYC
New York Immigration Coalition
Passaic County Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Presente.org
Prison Activist Resource Center
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Progressive States Network
Pueblo Sin Fronteras
Puente Arizona
Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP)
Rights Working Group
Rockland immigration coalition
Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Tenants and Workers United
The Reformed Church of Highland Park Immigration Committee
The Workplace Project
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
VivirLatino
Voces de la Frontera
Voces Unidas Por los Inmigrantes
WeCount!
Welcome Everybody Organization
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center, NJ
Workers Defense Project
Young Workers United