



## Bexar County Sheriff's Office

*Javier Salazar, Sheriff*



February 1, 2017

Members of the Bexar County Delegation

As Sheriff, it is first and foremost my responsibility to protect and serve our community. I have the dual responsibilities of enforcing the law on the streets of Bexar County, as well as managing the Bexar County Adult Detention Center.

It is my priority, and that of my colleagues in law enforcement that we maintain a strong relationship with the community we serve. This could include members of the immigrant community, some of whom may be undocumented. When policies exist that undermine the public trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community, we risk driving this segment of our population into the shadows, where they are preyed upon by criminals, and may even fail to report crimes for fear of negative repercussions, such as being deported.

To date, there are 26,738 people with active warrants for arrest in Bexar County and as it stands, we are nearing full capacity in the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. The BCSO currently has shortages of approximately 50 law enforcement officers and 120 detention officers. Currently, my detention officers, including me and my command staff, are working mandatory overtime shifts to make up for this shortage. Law enforcement officers are in the midst of a joint operation with the SAPD to target an increase in violent crimes. Simply stated, with a strained workforce and limited manpower, we do not have the capability nor the infrastructure to house undocumented people who do not have active warrants or criminal charges.

Federal programs such as 287(g) are unfunded mandates, which weigh heavily on local taxpayers and Bexar County resources. Mandates such as this and the State Compliance Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) have recently cost local taxpayers \$25 million and have only produced a \$2.7 million dollar reimbursement. These mandates cause an increased burden on the Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

With regard to law enforcement, in accordance with the law, my deputies will only conduct stops of individuals when articulable reasonable suspicion exists that a specific crime has been committed. Arrests will be made only when probable cause exists of a crime. Stopping or arresting someone based upon race or suspected national origin is not acceptable under the law. Deputies will not make inquiries of someone's race or nationality without legitimate reason to do so.

As for policies in the jail, we will comply with laws as they pertain to arrest and release of inmates. I will honor all warrants for arrest and will hold inmates as specifically required by law.

I have been in contact with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Field Director Daniel Battle and we discussed the issue of detainer requests. We have agreed to work together on detainer requests on a case-by-case basis and to act jointly, always in the interest of public safety.

As always, my first priority is to maintain a safe and secure Bexar County.

Sincerely,



Javier Salazar  
Sheriff  
Bexar County

The Honorable Carlos I. Uresti, Texas Senator  
The Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Texas Senator  
The Honorable Donna Campbell, Texas Senator  
The Honorable Jose Menendez, Texas Senator  
The Honorable Diana Arevalo, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Philip Cortez, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Tomas Uresti, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Joe Straus, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Lyle Larson, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Diego M. Bernal, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Ina Minjarez, Texas Representative  
The Honorable Justin Rodriguez, Texas Representative