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CHIEF STEVE SHORTS
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CHIEF DON AGUILAR
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CAPTAIN JAROD PRIMICERIO
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Ventura County Law Enforcement Statement Regarding Immigration Enforcement

As we approach the presidential inauguration, local law enforcement leaders have received inquiries about their roles in enforcing immigration laws. As law enforcement leaders within Ventura County, we feel it is important to re-emphasize our longstanding practices in this area. To be very clear, Ventura County law enforcement has not historically participated in the enforcement of immigration laws. We do not intend to change that practice.

Safe communities need effective law enforcement services. In order to be effective, we need the trust and cooperation between residents and the officers and deputies sworn to protect them. We do not want the fear of immigration status to inhibit the members of our communities from interacting with officers and deputies, especially when they are victims or witnesses in criminal cases.

In rare cases, and in compliance with California law (SB 54), noncitizens who are held to answer for or convicted of specified crimes may be transferred to federal immigration authorities in the county jail. A total of 43,761 people were booked into the Ventura County jail from various law enforcement agencies in 2023 and 2024. Of that number, only 88 were removed by immigration officials (0.2%). Their charges include crimes such as lewd acts on a child, assault with a deadly weapon, arson, and burglary.

Once again, the law enforcement leaders who serve you want to reassure our communities that we intend to maintain our position of NOT participating in immigration enforcement. We deeply appreciate and value the trust and confidence Ventura County law enforcement shares with our communities and look forward to your continued support.