

March 30, 2017

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City Manager, Albany
1000 San Pablo Ave.
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Subject: Sanctuary City

The March 31, 2017 rewrite of the Police Policy Manual Sec. 428 "Immigration Enforcement" is satisfactory in that it will encourage any resident, regardless of his status, to report local crimes, thereby keeping local peace.

I am concerned, however, that any stronger language would breed disrespect for the rule of law. I am opposed to Albany becoming a sanctuary city if that means that police are told by officials running the city to work against ICE as they try to enforce federal laws.

Are we going to ignore or break laws we don't agree with? Are we going to disregard state laws? Local laws? No, we must all stay within the rule of law. We don't condone anyone placing himself above the law. And we certainly do not want to pit one law enforcement agency against another.

People should not be here illegally. They are breaking laws, and we are helping them break laws. What does this teach our potential new citizens? It teaches that laws can be ignored (eg. recent code violations in Oakland), that it is OK, even beneficial, to break laws. We will help you break laws. This is a dangerous situation.

Thank-you for your consideration.

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