

Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: cboyd@burnetsheriff.com Burnet County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Calvin Boyd PO Box 1249 Burnet, TX 78611-1249

Dear Sheriff Boyd,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

¹ Davis Pughes and Art Acevedo, *"Texas police chiefs: Do not burder local officers with federal immigration enforcement."* DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Apr. 28, 2017, <u>https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/04/28/texas-police-chiefs-burden-local-officers-federal-immigration-enforcement</u>

287(g) agreements cost counties significant amounts of money while damaging public safety and community trust in law enforcement. The American Immigration Council's analysis of the program's history makes clear that "state and local governments have to pay the majority of [287(g)] costs . . . including travel, housing, and per diem for officers during training; salaries; overtime; other personnel costs; and administrative supplies."² These and other costs add up. For example, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez estimated that the program cost his department \$675,000 annually before he rescinded its agreement.³ Mecklenburg County in North Carolina spent \$5.3 million to operate a 287(g) program in its first year alone, while another North Carolina county, Alamance, spent \$4.8 million in the first year of its 287(g) agreement.⁴ Fort Bend County decided not to apply for a 287(g) program because "[the county] would have been forced to send six personnel members to a four-week training, at a cost of half a million dollars. Sheriff Nehls said he wouldn't feel comfortable 'knowing he'd send \$500,000 of taxpayers' money for something that maybe makes us feel good . . . it would be irresponsible for me to do that.¹⁷⁷⁵ Instead of spending taxpayer money on a federal responsibility, money can be used to better protect your community.

Participating in 287(g) undermines community trust and safety

² *The 287(g) Program: An Overview*, American Immigration Council (March 15, 2017), https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration

³ Lise Olsen, *18 Texas sheriffs step up to replace Harris County in Trump's deportation push*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Mar. 28, 2017, available at http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/18- Texas-sheriffs-step-up-to-replace-Harris-11028107.php

⁴ Mai Thi Nguyen and Hannah Gill, *The 287(g) Program: The Costs and Consequences of Local Immigration Enforcement in North Carolina Communities*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Latino Migration Project (2010) at 33, available at https://isa.unc.edu/files/2012/06/287g report final.pdf.

⁵ KTRK, *"Fort Bend County won't join ICE 287g program, Sheriff Says."* ABC13 EYEWITNESS NEWS, Aug. 3, 2017, available at: <u>http://abc13.com/sheriff-fort-bend-co-wont-join-ice-287g-program/2270683/</u>

⁶ Nik Theodore, Insecure Communities; *Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement*, at i (2013), <u>https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/INSECURE_COMMUNITIES_REPORT_FINAL.PDF</u>.

⁷Brooke A. Lewis, *"HPD chief announces decrease in Hispanics reporting rape and violent crimes compared to last year."* HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Apr. 5, 2017, <u>http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/HPD-chief-announces-decrease-in-Hispanics-11053829.php?t=eb46b3d100438d9cbb&cmpid=twitter-premium</u>

Such staggering decreases in civilian cooperation hamper core police work and pose serious public safety concerns. A recent study from the University of Tampa analyzed the effects of 287(g) program implementation in Frederick County, Maryland and found that "the program led to a significantly higher number of arrests of Hispanics by the Sheriff's Office than would have occurred in its absence, indicating that attention was focused toward the Hispanic community as a result of the program."¹⁰ Exacerbating the concerns to public safety is the reality that the program is not effective: many of the people targeted by 287(g) programs pose no threat to public safety and have no criminal record. The Migration Policy Institute found that "the [287(g)] program is not targeted primarily or even mostly toward serious offenders."¹¹ We are not alone in this concern: leading law-enforcement voices¹² agree with our opposition to the entanglement of immigration enforcement with local policing.

287(g) programs expose Burnet County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Michael Coon, Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population, Journal on Migration and Human Security (2017), 646, <u>http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/view/102</u>

¹¹ Migration Policy Institute, *Delegation and Divergence: A Study of 287(g) State and Local Immigration Enforcement* 58 (2011), <u>https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/delegation-and-divergence-287g-state-and-local-immigration-enforcement</u>, 2.

¹² Statement of Chief J. Thomas Manger, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the Major Cities Chiefs Association, *"Examining 287(g): The Role of State and Local Law Enforcement in Immigration Law."* House Committee on Homeland Security (Mar. 4, 2009), available at <u>https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-111hhrg49374/html/CHRG-111hhrg49374.htm</u>

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¹⁴ US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, *United States' Investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office*, (Dec 15, 2011) <u>https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/15/mcso_findletter_12-15-11.pdf</u>

We would like to schedule a meeting with your staff in order to discuss these concerns in person. Thank you for your consideration.

Astrid Dominguez Immigrant Rights Strategist American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

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Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney American Civil Liberties Union of Texas



Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: al.auxier@co.kendall.tx.us Kendall County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Al Auxier 6 Staudt St. Boerne, TX 78006

Dear Sheriff Auxier,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

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287(g) agreements cost counties significant amounts of money while damaging public safety and community trust in law enforcement. The American Immigration Council's analysis of the program's history makes clear that "state and local governments have to pay the majority of [287(g)] costs . . . including travel, housing, and per diem for officers during training; salaries; overtime; other personnel costs; and administrative supplies."² These and other costs add up. For example, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez estimated that the program cost his department \$675,000 annually before he rescinded its agreement.³ Mecklenburg County in North Carolina spent \$5.3 million to operate a 287(g) program in its first year alone, while another North Carolina county, Alamance, spent \$4.8 million in the first year of its 287(g) agreement.⁴ Fort Bend County decided not to apply for a 287(g) program because "[the county] would have been forced to send six personnel members to a four-week training, at a cost of half a million dollars. Sheriff Nehls said he wouldn't feel comfortable 'knowing he'd send \$500,000 of taxpayers' money for something that maybe makes us feel good . . . it would be irresponsible for me to do that.¹⁷⁷⁵ Instead of spending taxpayer money on a federal responsibility, money can be used to better protect your community.

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287(g) programs expose Kendall County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

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Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: jim.kaelin@co.nueces.tx.us Nueces County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Jim Kaelin PO Box 1940 Corpus Christi, TX 78403-1940

Dear Sheriff Kaelin,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

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287(g) programs expose Nueces County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

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December 19, 2017

Via email: soblt@co.potter.tx.us Potter County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Brian Thomas 608 S Pierce Amarillo, TX 79101-2427

Dear Sheriff Thomas,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

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Participating in 287(g) undermines community trust and safety

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287(g) programs expose Potter County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

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Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: *heavenson@rockwallcountytexas.com* Rockwall County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Harold Eavenson 972 T L Townsend Rockwall, TX 75087

Dear Sheriff Eavenson,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

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⁶ Nik Theodore, Insecure Communities; *Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement*, at i (2013), <u>https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/INSECURE_COMMUNITIES_REPORT_FINAL.PDF</u>.

⁷Brooke A. Lewis, *"HPD chief announces decrease in Hispanics reporting rape and violent crimes compared to last year."* HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Apr. 5, 2017, <u>http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/HPD-chief-announces-decrease-in-Hispanics-11053829.php?t=eb46b3d100438d9cbb&cmpid=twitter-premium</u>

Such staggering decreases in civilian cooperation hamper core police work and pose serious public safety concerns. A recent study from the University of Tampa analyzed the effects of 287(g) program implementation in Frederick County, Maryland and found that "the program led to a significantly higher number of arrests of Hispanics by the Sheriff's Office than would have occurred in its absence, indicating that attention was focused toward the Hispanic community as a result of the program."¹⁰ Exacerbating the concerns to public safety is the reality that the program is not effective: many of the people targeted by 287(g) programs pose no threat to public safety and have no criminal record. The Migration Policy Institute found that "the [287(g)] program is not targeted primarily or even mostly toward serious offenders."¹¹ We are not alone in this concern: leading law-enforcement voices¹² agree with our opposition to the entanglement of immigration enforcement with local policing.

287(g) programs expose Rockwall County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Michael Coon, Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population, Journal on Migration and Human Security (2017), 646, <u>http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/view/102</u>

¹¹ Migration Policy Institute, *Delegation and Divergence: A Study of 287(g) State and Local Immigration Enforcement* 58 (2011), <u>https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/delegation-and-divergence-287g-state-and-local-immigration-enforcement</u>, 2.

¹² Statement of Chief J. Thomas Manger, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the Major Cities Chiefs Association, *"Examining 287(g): The Role of State and Local Law Enforcement in Immigration Law."* House Committee on Homeland Security (Mar. 4, 2009), available at <u>https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-111hhrg49374/html/CHRG-111hhrg49374.htm</u>

¹³ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, *The Performance of the 287(g) Agreements*, at 22-25 (March 2010) <u>https://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/OIG 10-63 Mar10.pdf</u>.

¹⁴ US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, *United States' Investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office*, (Dec 15, 2011) <u>https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/15/mcso_findletter_12-15-11.pdf</u>

We would like to schedule a meeting with your staff in order to discuss these concerns in person. Thank you for your consideration.

Astrid Dominguez Immigrant Rights Strategist American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

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Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney American Civil Liberties Union of Texas



Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: terrell.co.so@bigbend.net Terrell County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Keith Hughes PO Box 320 Sanderson, TX 79848-0320

Dear Sheriff Hughes,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

¹ Davis Pughes and Art Acevedo, *"Texas police chiefs: Do not burder local officers with federal immigration enforcement."* DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Apr. 28, 2017, <u>https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/04/28/texas-police-chiefs-burden-local-officers-federal-immigration-enforcement</u>

287(g) agreements cost counties significant amounts of money while damaging public safety and community trust in law enforcement. The American Immigration Council's analysis of the program's history makes clear that "state and local governments have to pay the majority of [287(g)] costs . . . including travel, housing, and per diem for officers during training; salaries; overtime; other personnel costs; and administrative supplies."² These and other costs add up. For example, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez estimated that the program cost his department \$675,000 annually before he rescinded its agreement.³ Mecklenburg County in North Carolina spent \$5.3 million to operate a 287(g) program in its first year alone, while another North Carolina county, Alamance, spent \$4.8 million in the first year of its 287(g) agreement.⁴ Fort Bend County decided not to apply for a 287(g) program because "[the county] would have been forced to send six personnel members to a four-week training, at a cost of half a million dollars. Sheriff Nehls said he wouldn't feel comfortable 'knowing he'd send \$500,000 of taxpayers' money for something that maybe makes us feel good . . . it would be irresponsible for me to do that.³⁷⁵ Instead of spending taxpayer money on a federal responsibility, money can be used to better protect your community.

Participating in 287(g) undermines community trust and safety

² *The 287(g) Program: An Overview*, American Immigration Council (March 15, 2017), https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration

³ Lise Olsen, *18 Texas sheriffs step up to replace Harris County in Trump's deportation push*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Mar. 28, 2017, available at http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/18- Texas-sheriffs-step-up-to-replace-Harris-11028107.php

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⁷Brooke A. Lewis, *"HPD chief announces decrease in Hispanics reporting rape and violent crimes compared to last year."* HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Apr. 5, 2017, <u>http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/HPD-chief-announces-decrease-in-Hispanics-11053829.php?t=eb46b3d100438d9cbb&cmpid=twitter-premium</u>

Such staggering decreases in civilian cooperation hamper core police work and pose serious public safety concerns. A recent study from the University of Tampa analyzed the effects of 287(g) program implementation in Frederick County, Maryland and found that "the program led to a significantly higher number of arrests of Hispanics by the Sheriff's Office than would have occurred in its absence, indicating that attention was focused toward the Hispanic community as a result of the program."¹⁰ Exacerbating the concerns to public safety is the reality that the program is not effective: many of the people targeted by 287(g) programs pose no threat to public safety and have no criminal record. The Migration Policy Institute found that "the [287(g)] program is not targeted primarily or even mostly toward serious offenders."¹¹ We are not alone in this concern: leading law-enforcement voices¹² agree with our opposition to the entanglement of immigration enforcement with local policing.

287(g) programs expose Terrell County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

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Adriana Piñon Policy Counsel & Senior Staff Attorney 713.942.8146 <u>apinon@aclutx.org</u>

December 19, 2017

Via email: rchody@wilco.org Williamson County's Sheriff Department Sheriff Robert Chody 508 S Rock St Georgetown, TX 78626

Dear Sheriff Chody,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, and its thousands of members, activists, and supporters around the state, we write to urge you to withdraw your County's application to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through a delegation of authority pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (287(g) program), and respectfully request a meeting to discuss our concerns.

¹ Davis Pughes and Art Acevedo, *"Texas police chiefs: Do not burder local officers with federal immigration enforcement."* DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Apr. 28, 2017, <u>https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/04/28/texas-police-chiefs-burden-local-officers-federal-immigration-enforcement</u>

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287(g) programs expose Williamson County to costly legal liability.

⁸ James Queally, "Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says." Los Angeles Times (Mar. 21, 2017), <u>http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html</u>

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