



**VIA EMAIL**

November 11, 2016

Sheriff-Elect Ed Gonzalez  
3411 Irvington Blvd.  
Houston TX 77009  
Email: ed@edforsheriff.com

Dear Sheriff-Elect Gonzalez,

On Tuesday, the people of Harris County elected you as their new Sheriff. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, headquartered in Houston, extends its congratulations and looks forward to working with you to ensure that Harris County has a criminal justice system that is fair and free of racial bias, keeps our communities safe, and respects the rights of all who come into contact with it.

We are especially encouraged by your promise to do everything in your power to end the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) contract with the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the 287(g) program. As you know, under this program, ICE authorizes Harris County Sheriff deputies to do the work of federal immigration agents, including interrogating and arresting noncitizens suspected of violating immigration laws and placing detainers on alleged noncitizens held in Harris County custody – a practice which a federal court recently ruled was illegal. This is done by means of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ICE and HCSO that was renewed on June 28, 2016 by current Sheriff Ron Hickman, amidst widespread criticism from the community.

We agree with you that "287(g) is dangerous for our families and neighborhoods. It diverts millions of dollars in scarce resources away from protecting our county from violent criminals, encourages illegal racial profiling and undermines effective community policing strategies." You will soon have the sole authority to terminate the 287(g) MOA and we urge you to do so immediately upon taking office.

We're here to help and point out the three simple steps that you can take to end the 287(g) program immediately after you take office on January 1, 2017:

1. Prepare a **written notice of termination** addressed to the ICE Field Operations Director (FOD) in the Houston District saying simply that HCSO terminates its MOA pursuant to Section XXI of the MOA.
2. **Sign and date** the notice of termination.
3. **Deliver** the notice of termination to the ICE FOD c/o ICE's point of contact under the MOA, namely, 287(g) Program Manager, Rogelio J. Gutierrez, Enforcement and Removal Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 126 Northpoint Dr., Houston, Texas 77060.

The termination will take effect immediately upon receipt of the notice. The people of Harris County, including community leaders, activists, civil rights lawyers, immigrants, and concerned citizens, who voted for and strongly supported you, are counting on you to fulfill this promise as soon as possible. The ACLU urges you to do the same and offers you its support on this issue.

Again, we warmly welcome you to your new role and look forward to being a resource to your office on this and other issues involving criminal justice as we continue to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all residents of Harris County.

Sincerely,



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