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# Los Angeles City Council



**BERNARD C. PARKS**  
Councilmember, Eighth District

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May 24, 2011

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to ICE'S "Secure Communities" program**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to express opposition to the Secure Communities (S-Comm) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As a past Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles, I understand the critical importance of fostering positive relationships between community members and law enforcement officials that lead to the sharing of critical information in reporting and solving crimes.

The implementation of the Secure Communities program has been detrimental to the immigrant community and has proven to conflict with its stated purpose of targeting individuals convicted of serious criminal offenses. Across the nation, figures reflect that approximately 80% of those individuals detained by ICE under S-Comm were never convicted of a serious crime.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General has already agreed to launch an investigation of the program at the request of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has terminated its MOA between Illinois State Police and ICE's Secure Communities program. It is clear that this program threatens previous efforts to build community trust in the police, protect due process rights and end racial profiling in our cities.

My specific concerns with Secure Communities are that participation in the program should be voluntary. The purpose of S-Comm needs to focus on targeting those criminals who are negatively impacting their communities and to protect victims who come forward to report crimes. The sanctity of Special Order 40, a police mandate implemented in 1979 by the Los Angeles Police Department, Police Chief Daryl Gates and the Los Angeles City Council preventing LAPD officers from questioning community members for the sole purpose of determining their immigration status, must be maintained throughout the implementation of Secure Communities. Finally, an evaluation system needs to be implemented in order to oversee appropriate compliance and operation of the program.

I am proud to stand with U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Governor Pat Quinn (IL), Governor Andrew Cuomo (NY), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Los Angeles Times, and other members of the national movement who question the true intent of the Secure Communities program. I commit to introducing a council resolution on behalf of the City of Los Angeles opposing Secure Communities as it currently operates, as it seriously threatens the City's efforts to continue a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between law enforcement authorities and the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard C. Parks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Bernard C. Parks  
Councilmember