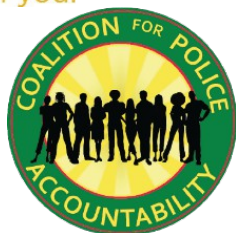


#DEPORTICE



East Bay Chapter 162



April 11, 2018

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Hon. Trish Herrera Spencer (tspencer@alamedaca.gov)
Hon. Malia Vella (mvella@alamedaca.gov)
Hon. Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft (mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov)
Hon. Frank Matarrese (fmatarrese@alamedaca.gov)
Hon. Jim Oddie (joddie@alamedaca.gov)
Alameda City Council
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Re: Community Support for the Sanctuary City Contracting and Investment Ordinance

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The undersigned coalition urges the Alameda City Council to approve the Sanctuary City Contracting and Investment Ordinance (Vella), noticed as a referral item on your April 17, 2018 agenda. This coalition represents diverse Alameda and East Bay residents who are concerned with the ever-increasing number of private actors that are supplying data and other services to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), for the purpose of deporting our immigrant neighbors, families, friends, and colleagues. This Ordinance provides the City of Alameda with a mechanism to align its Sanctuary values with its purchasing power, and adoption of the Ordinance will cause the business practices of these vendors to change. Alameda should not be in the business of subsidizing President’s Trump’s deportation machine. We urge you to approve it without delay.

This Ordinance prohibits the award of City contracts to any vendor that is supplying “Data Broker” or “Extreme Vetting” (e.g. threat modeling, predictive analytics) services to ICE. The Ordinance also prevents investment in such companies going forward.

This ordinance does not require divestment. We agree that the nature of today’s financial markets and commingled funds make divestment compliance impractical. Furthermore, we understand that the primary intent of this ordinance is to change future behavior, and to send a strong message to the Trump Administration that Alameda does not support, and will not tolerate, his xenophobic policies.

As the Trump Administration signals that it will focus its surveillance and enforcement powers on immigrants and Muslim Americans, local leaders have a special responsibility to enact strong measures that protect vulnerable residents from suspicionless monitoring and the creation of databases exploitable for discriminatory ends. As the contracts cited to in the various Whereas clauses in the Ordinance evidence, ICE is already moving fast along this path. Vulnerable communities cannot afford a delay in adoption.

On February 6, 2018, the Alameda City Council rejected a \$500,000 proposal to purchase automated license plate readers from Vigilant, a Livermore, California based company, due to concerns about Vigilant's contract to provide data to ICE¹. On March 13, 2018, the Culver City Council also rejected a proposal from Vigilant for license plate readers, due to concerns that Culver City's Sanctuary City status would be at risk because of Vigilant's data sharing practices with ICE.² On March 20, 2018, the San Pablo City Council tabled a \$2.49 million proposal which included license plate readers from Vigilant, due to the same concerns about their data sharing practices.³

If adopted, this Ordinance will protect the civil liberties and civil rights of all Alameda residents, it will cause the business practices of private parties to change, and it will demonstrate to the Trump Administration that Alameda rejects his xenophobic policies. We urge the City Council to adopt it without delay.

Sincerely,

*Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership
American Friends Service Committee
Block By Block Organizing Network
Council on American-Islamic Relations – San Francisco Bay Area
California Sanctuary Campaign
Center for Media Justice
Centro Legal
Coalition for Police Accountability
Courage Campaign
Defending Dissent
DeportICE.org
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Freedom for Immigrants (formerly CIVIC)
Greenlining Institute
Jewish Voice for Peace – Bay Area
Media Alliance
Oakland Privacy
Restore the 4th
Veterans for Peace East Bay
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club*

¹ <https://www.aclunc.org/blog/alameda-rejects-surveillance-deal-company-tied-ice>

² <http://culvercitycrossroads.com/2018/03/14/special-city-council-meeting-no-to-license-plate-readers-yes-to-drones/>

³ <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2018/03/21/san-pablo-tables-plan-to-expand-city-wide-surveillance-system-with-license-plate-scanners-from-company-tied-to-ice>