



April 16, 2018

For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian Hofer Email: brian.hofer@gmail.com Telephone: (510) 303-2871

Alameda Sanctuary City Contracting Ordinance To Cut Data Pipes to ICE

Proposed New Law From Vice Mayor Malia Vella Cuts Off Extreme Vetting and Data Vendors From City Business

Alameda-On April 17, the Alameda City Council will consider a contracting and investment ordinance that would prevent the city's business and investment funds from going to data broker companies that share personal information with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or plan to participate in the Trump Administration's "extreme vetting" program. The full text of the proposed ordinance can be read [here](#).

Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Malia Vella, the Sanctuary City Contracting and Investment Ordinance was developed by an 19-organization coalition working under the name #DeportICE.=(www.deportice.org). The coalition's work focuses on strengthening immigrant protections in the Bay Area's sanctuary cities to remove loopholes and assist local governments with sanctuary policies from indirectly subsidizing or cooperating with the Trump Administration's aggressive civil immigration enforcement ramp-up.

Mike Katz-Lacabe of Oakland Privacy, which anchors the #DeportICE coalition, commented: "One way to fight the deportation machinery and protect our friends and neighbors is to stop feeding that machinery with data collected by local law enforcement."

The coalition's work is based on the belief that the combination of Big Data and the xenophobic dog-whistles of the Trump Administration is potentially leading the United States into a hi-tech echo of the conditions that led to the domestic detention of Japanese-Americans and the concentration camps of fascist Germany, which ended in the mass murders of Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals and resistance dissenters in Europe in the 1940's.

"When it comes to private business practices, the Constitution isn't always helpful. Much like existing anti-nuclear weapon or border wall contractor prohibition ordinances, this Sanctuary City Contracting ordinance provides local elected officials with a tool to disincentivize or change private behavior. If these vendors want our taxpayer dollars, they need to align with our values. We are extremely grateful that Vice Mayor Vella recognizes the need for such an ordinance in Alameda", said Brian Hofer of #DeportICE and chair of Oakland's Privacy Commission.

Sanctuary City contracting ordinances provide sanctuary cities and counties with a mechanism to align their sanctuary resolutions with municipal purchasing power. The widespread adoption of contracting prohibitions and forward-looking investments is intended to change the business practices of private companies that are feeding information to ICE for the purpose of tracking and profiling immigrant populations.

Among known ICE data brokers are Palantir, Giant Oak, Thomson-Reuters and Vigilant Solutions, which signed a contract with ICE in January of 2018 to share its large automated license plate reader database. The Alameda City Council paused an expansion of its license plate reader deployment in February after becoming aware of Vigilant's contract with ICE. ¹

1 <https://www.theverge.com/2018/2/7/16988058/ice-license-plate-reader-backlash-alameda-deportation-aclu>

“Extreme vetting” is a proposal by the Trump administration to subject visa applicants and potential immigrants to enhanced investigatory procedures and threat modeling using software algorithms to scrape data and computationally assess immigration and visa decisions.

The Department of Homeland Security put out a requisition for software to perform the enhanced vetting in the fall of 2017, hosting a 2-day vendor show and tell in Arlington in the fall of 2017 which was attended by numerous technology companies. Attendees included a who’s who of technology giants including IBM, Lexis-Nexis, SAS, Deloitte, Giant Oak, Unisys, Red Hat, Booz Allen and SAIC ²

100 technology experts signed a letter of protest stating that the extreme vetting program was misguided and that the program would inevitably result in biased targeting and discrimination. ³

The sanctuary movement began in Christian churches in the 1980’s when Catholics, Presbyterians and Quakers began interpreting Judeo-Christian teachings to mean they were obligated to provide safety and protection to those fleeing violence and persecution. On March 24, 1982, Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ declared itself the first public sanctuary. By 1985, 500 other churches had done with the same, with public statements of support for sanctuary institutions put out by the Presbyterian Church in 1983, and the American Lutheran Church, Rabbinical Assembly, and the American Baptist Church in 1984. In 1971, Berkeley, CA became the first sanctuary city in the United States. There are now 163 sanctuary cities and counties across the United States. In Northern California, they include; Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Francisco, Monterey, Marin, San Mateo, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, Placer, Sacramento, Solano and Sonoma counties, along with the cities of Oakland, Alameda, Hayward, San Pablo, Berkeley, Watsonville, Richmond, Martinez, Davis, Fremont, San Jose, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Salinas, Santa Rosa, Seaside and Vallejo.

###

2 <https://theintercept.com/2017/08/07/these-are-the-technology-firms-lining-up-to-build-trumps-extreme-vetting-program/>

3 <https://theintercept.com/2017/11/16/trumps-extreme-vetting-software-will-discriminate-against-immigrants-under-a-veneer-of-objectivity-say-experts/>