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For Immediate Release

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Three Bay Area Governments Considering Limits on Surveillance Tech and Federal Data-Sharing on May 1
Proposed New Laws in Richmond and Berkeley Cut off Extreme Vetting and Data Vendors from City Business

Richmond-On May 1, the Richmond 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 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 Councilmembers Jovanka Beckles and Ada Recinos, the Sanctuary City Contracting and Investment Ordinance was developed by a 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.

Richmond Mayor Tom Butt has recently expressed concern about ICE activities in the West County Detention Center in Richmond after support group Freedom for Immigrants (formerly CIVIC) was expelled from the facility, a county correctional employee was arrested for having sex with female inmates, and reports came of female detainees being denied medical care and bathroom access and having to defecate into plastic bags.

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 City of Berkeley will review a similar contracting ordinance on the same night, May 1, under the sponsorship of Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Kate Harrison and Cheryl Davila.

"Bay Area sanctuary cities should not be contracting with or profiting from such data broker companies that engage with ICE or 'extreme vetting' programs that put vulnerable communities at risk," says Sameena Usman, Government Relations Coordinator for the Council on American Islamic Relations-SF Bay Area, another member of the #DeportICE coalition. "These programs are a serious threat to due process, civil liberties, and would inevitably chill free speech."

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 murder 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 here in the Bay Area, 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 Bay Area governments are recognizing the need for such laws", said Brian Hofer of #DeportICE and chair of Oakland's Privacy Commission.

Also, on May 1, Oakland's City Council will conduct the first of two votes to enact a surveillance transparency ordinance into municipal law. Oakland's surveillance ordinance, which has been in development in the years since the City pulled back from a Homeland Security-funded citywide surveillance dragnet called the Domain Awareness Center, will be the strongest local surveillance law on the books in the country and provide the City, which has the nation's only municipal citizens Privacy Commission, with unparalleled disclosure and oversight over spytech. The surveillance transparency law received a unanimous show of support from the Public Safety committee last week and is currently scheduled for the Council's consent calendar.

"The conversation about the balance between freedom and safety, security and human rights, is too important to be relegated to a secretive back room that is out of view to those most affected. After the Domain Awareness Center, Oakland said never again, and Tuesday's vote will deliver on that promise", commented Tracy Rosenberg of Media Alliance, a member of Oakland Privacy and the #DeportICE coalition.

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