

# Escondido Neighbors for Solutions

September 20, 2025

Mayor Dane White and City Council members  
City of Escondido  
*Via Email*

## **RE: Request for Actions Now in the Face of Aggressive Enforcement Activities**

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Escondido Neighbors for Solutions is writing to request the Council to take concrete and proactive actions, now, to address the current and future impacts to residents of federal immigration enforcement in Escondido. This action needs to be taken as soon as possible.

Escondido Neighbors for Solutions supported the letter you filed with the Congressional delegation last month, but it has come to nothing. It is now undeniable that state and local leaders must lead the way to oppose the excesses that are occurring in our communities.

New numbers are out regarding who ICE is detaining. Over 70% are people with no criminal record.<sup>1</sup> Most of those with a record are for (sometimes very old) non-violent offenses.

Recently, over the objections of 18 Southern California cities, the Supreme Court decided to green-light federal immigration agents to resume their racial profiling 'roving patrols', which allow stops based on factors like perceived race, language, and occupation. Such activities re-ignite fear in the community which, in turn, has significant impacts to health and safety of the whole community.

This also has significant impacts on the daily lives of Latino residents and the economy of the region. A report from the UC Merced Community and Labor Center shows ICE raids have serious economic impacts. The Center found that people reporting to do private sector work in California decreased by 3.1- 4.9% after raids.<sup>2</sup> Other studies show the same.<sup>3</sup> It is reasonable to expect the same for Escondido.

Once the President's budget is in full force 10,000 more ICE agents will be added to the roles and presence in our cities of this rogue force will increase as will the devastating impacts on us. Without an official declaration our city and local officials might find themselves in a position of acquiescence to federal immigration enforcement without a say in its operation within the city's borders.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://clc.ucmerced.edu/sites/g/files/ufvvjh626/f/page/documents/effects\\_of\\_federal\\_immigration\\_enforcement\\_aug\\_2025.pdf](https://clc.ucmerced.edu/sites/g/files/ufvvjh626/f/page/documents/effects_of_federal_immigration_enforcement_aug_2025.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bayareaeconomy.org/report/economic-impact-of-mass-deportation-in-california/>

You are not powerless in this struggle. In fact, you are called, empowered by the public to take action on behalf of the residents you are elected to serve and protect.

Here is just a partial list of actions we are requesting you to take as city leaders to address this crisis and information on other entities also taking these actions.

1. Now that SB 627 'No Secret Police' Act is state law<sup>4</sup>, the city and EPD should develop and adopt its masking policy to comply as soon as possible per Section 2 of SB 627.
2. Pass a resolution setting your desired rules for ICE in our city such as the Executive Order by the Mayor of Chicago<sup>5</sup> and the Community Trust Resolution by Oceanside.
3. Work with the Escondido School Districts to establish a Safe Passage to Schools program. (Attachment 1.)
4. Submit FOIA requests to document ICE operations in the city and share results with the public, including but not limited to:
  - a. Date, time, place of enforcement actions,
  - b. Names of individuals arrested or detained,
  - c. Basis or allegation of criminal conduct for the detention.
5. Pass a resolution explicitly prohibiting EPD from sharing license plate reader data with ICE.
6. Establish a legal defense fund for residents impacted by detentions.<sup>6</sup>

These are just a few of the actions you could take to help residents feel and be safer. Given the seriousness of our collective situation it is hard to understand why you do not act.

Please include these priorities in your annual vision process as a critical element of Public Safety in Escondido.

Sincerely,

***Escondido Neighbors for Solutions***

*Joanne Tenney*

*Gregg Oliver*

*Pam Alberg*

*Brenda Townsend*

*Laura Hunter*

*Maria Wallace*

*Michele Schmalvogel*

*Lisa Richards*

*Denise Rolan*

*Ron Forster*

*Kate Barba*

*Georgine Tomasi*

*Anna Issa*

*Ana Marie Velasco*

*Christine Nava*

*Cathy Haven*

*TJ Musser*

*Kathy Rulon*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://sd11.senate.ca.gov/news/governor-newsom-signs-senator-wieners-ban-extreme-masking-ice-other-law-enforcement>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000198-fc20-d5db-a5da-fd6435270000>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-29/trump-raids-shattered-latino-community-oxnard>

## Attachment 1

### Safe Passage Program

We believe that ensuring the safety and security of our children on their way to and from school is a top priority, especially given recent reports of immigration enforcement activity near school zones. A well-structured "Safe Passage" program would not only address these specific concerns but also create a safer environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status.

We propose a program that combines a **community-led volunteer effort** with official support from the city and the Escondido Union School District (EUSD). Our plan builds on the successful model of the EUSD's former "Safe Walk" program and incorporates elements from Los Angeles's "Safe Passages" initiative.

### Program Components

A practical "Safe Passage" program for Escondido would consist of three key components:

- **Volunteer Network:** This would be the core of the program. Volunteers would be recruited from the community, including parents, retirees, and other concerned residents. They would be trained and vetted to serve as the "eyes and ears" along common school routes.
- **Recruitment and Vetting:** Volunteers must undergo a formal application process, including a background check and fingerprinting, to become official EUSD volunteers. This ensures a safe and trustworthy network.
- **Training:** Training would focus on identifying potential issues, de-escalation techniques, and communication protocols. Volunteers would learn how to safely and respectfully interact with all community members, including law enforcement, and report any problematic activity to school officials.
- **Visibility:** Volunteers would be provided with identifiable vests and ID badges so they are easily recognizable to students and parents. They would be strategically placed at key intersections and high-traffic areas during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.

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**Creation of "Safe Zones":** The city, in collaboration with the EUSD and the Escondido Police Department, would officially designate and communicate "safe zones" around all school campuses.

**Defined Areas:** These zones would be clearly defined as the area within a mile of a school where immigration enforcement activity is actively discouraged, particularly during school hours. While not a legal barrier, this official designation sends a clear message of our city's commitment to protecting children.

**Community Partnerships:** We would partner with local businesses, places of worship, and community centers to serve as additional "safe havens" where students can seek help if they feel unsafe or need assistance. These locations would display a "Safe Passage" decal in their windows.

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**Community and Official Communication:** Effective communication is essential for the program's success.

**Public Awareness Campaign:** We would launch a campaign to inform the community about the program, its purpose, and how to get involved. This would include distributing information in multiple languages to ensure inclusivity.

**Official Protocols:** The city and EUSD would establish clear communication protocols with federal agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This would involve requesting that any enforcement actions be conducted at times and locations that do not interfere with student safety and school operations.

We believe this multi-faceted approach offers a practical and effective way to ensure the safety of our city's most vulnerable residents—our children. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and working with you to make Escondido a safer place for all students.