



## OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY ALLAYING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS

Now that the 2016 election has concluded, there has been a lot of anxiety within the Cloverdale community regarding the fate of our immigrant neighbors. I have had several anxious citizens approach me with concerns that our police department will be participating in the “deportation force” invariably coming our way after President-elect Trump takes office on January 20, 2017. I was quite surprised by both the sincerity of the question and the unadulterated fear associated with the belief that our country would resort to such draconian measures. So...**let me be clear from the start:** public safety is the *primary* concern of local law enforcement, NOT immigration. That means if you are a *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* (“DACA”) student working hard to earn a college degree, or an undocumented immigrant who is otherwise obeying the law, we are not going to go out of our way to pursue and detain you. It means that regardless of your immigration status, if you need assistance – either from injury, assault, or accident – our role will still be to help you in any way possible. Currently, we have three bi-lingual police officers working for our department.

The Cloverdale Police Department does not enforce federal law – by statute it’s not our job. And beyond the legal limits, any attempt to target non-criminals would jeopardize our ability to protect our communities. Public safety requires public partnerships, and undue immigration enforcement will erode both the trust and collaboration we need from people living in our respective communities. Because those relationships are so important, police chiefs across California, including me, have a track record of supporting California’s large immigrant community.

Last year the California Police Chiefs Association gave primary testimony in support of AB 2027 – which will help secure T-Visa’s and immigration relief for victims of human trafficking, with the hope of fostering cooperation from those victims to aid in the apprehension of their traffickers. Additionally, Cal Chiefs was the only law enforcement group to support legislation (AB 60) to provide driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants in 2014.

However, there are instances when providing public safety require us to partner with our federal allies. Consistent with our existing state laws and current procedures, we strongly believe that undocumented immigrants who commit violent and serious offenses against members of our community should be subject to the immigration laws of this country. And if you ask most immigrants, they will support enforcing those laws against dangerous individuals as well.

Additionally, it’s important to remember that cooperation between federal, state, and local law enforcement is important for our national security, and the ability to keep us all safe from foreign and domestic threats. After the national tragedy on September 11<sup>th</sup>, information-sharing between local law enforcement and federal law enforcement improved dramatically. We are concerned that the controversy surrounding immigration will have a negative impact on information sharing and collaboration. Many suspected or potential terrorist in this country have immigration violations that should be enforced.

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## CLOVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Clearly there is a balance that needs to be struck – one that takes the focus away from those not posing a threat, and allows law enforcement to expend resources protecting our communities from anyone with ill-intent.

The Cloverdale Police Department supports the current balance we have in place, and will express our concern should anyone provoke changes that compromise the safety of our community. I hope each of you has a prosperous and safe New Year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (707) 894-2150 or email at [scramer@ci.cloverdale.ca.us](mailto:scramer@ci.cloverdale.ca.us).

Respectfully,



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Stephen Wayne Cramer  
Chief of Police  
December 29, 2016