

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Supervisor Elisa Márquez, Chair
Supervisor Nate Miley

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5th floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/83246519903>
Phone: (877) 853-5257
Webinar ID: 832 4651 9903

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Supervisor Márquez opening remarks

There have been recent aggressive Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in California that have left many local residents—especially immigrants, feeling unsafe in Alameda County. There is a need for timely, proactive responses to the deliberate federal attacks on residents’ rights, livelihoods, and family stability. Supervisor Márquez thanked Supervisor Fortunato Bas for partnership on an ad-hoc Alameda County Together for All Committee, which has helped to reinvest \$3.5 million (approved this March) into the county’s rapid-response system. Given the escalating federal actions, partner organizations receiving these county funds can brief the board on rapid-response efforts, immigrant and refugee safety measures, and defense of constitutional rights for all residents.

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM Current State of Alameda County Rapid Response Efforts Due to Increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Activity in California

- **Status Update from the Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)**
[Attachment](#)

Monique Berlanga, Executive Director, Centro Legal de la Raza, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP) update.

ICE enforcement has intensified nationwide; activity in Alameda County is relatively contained however conditions can shift rapidly. The response system must stay nimble, trauma-informed, and community-collaborative.

Progress since launch (Feb 17)

- 1,000+ hotline calls answered (often hour-long, crisis-support conversations).
- 7,000+ “red card” rights flyers distributed
- 20+ (and counting) Know-Your-Rights presentations county-wide.
- Hundreds of trained volunteers are ready for on-site ICE-activity verification.
- 50+ asylum consultations plus emergency legal interventions.
- Broad multilingual outreach via billboards, flyers, social media.

Resource and partnership requests

ACILEP requests flexible funding from the County rather than committing immediately to a 24/7 hotline. Additionally, a County-led coordination hub to align CBOs, law-enforcement, and the three AC LIP-funded projects; Supervisors are urged to convene local partners and build contact trees before emergencies.

Status Update on Community-Legal Partnership for Deportation Defense

[Attachment](#)

Lisa Knox, Co-Executive Director, California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Community-Legal Partnership for Deportation Defense.

Locally there have been arrests of people who are asylum seekers who entered lawfully in addition to arrests at ICE check-ins, including families and children. There are more detention beds and deteriorating conditions in Mesa Verde from 50 to 400 beds and talk of new possible federal sites.

The Partnership has increased coordination and data sharing to more efficiently use legal capacity, in addition to coordinating with Alameda County partners, region-wide on rapid response and leveraging volunteers and pro bono firms to increase capacity.

Currently there is recruitment and training volunteers with pro-bono law firms to surge during large enforcement actions. The organization has been in talks with Asian Law Caucus and African Advocacy Network to subcontract services and reach AAPI, African, and Afro-Caribbean communities.

Integration with community organizing includes joint legal clinics with organizers to pair legal counsel with membership-building and advocacy.

Status Update from the Alameda County Public Defender's Office Immigration

Unit

[Attachment](#)

Raha Jorjani, Deputy Public Defender, Alameda County Public Defender's Office, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Defender's Office Immigration Unit.

Clients have been afraid of sudden ICE detention with anxiety spikes around routine check-ins, travel, even new citizens fearing loss of status. Recent ICE weekend notices and opaque demands deepen trauma, forcing families to brace for possible separation.

Since December, the Immigration Unit has expanded Know-Your-Rights talks (community events, colleges, law-library trainings) and sends attorneys to accompany vulnerable clients at ICE check-ins. In addition, the office has had a hiring surge enabled by Board funding with three new immigration attorneys slated to start in August, two admin staff have been onboarded, and a legal-secretary search under way.

The Immigration Unit is ramping up federal litigation with filing habeas petitions and constitutional challenges when ICE re-arrests clients without new cause. At the office's Oakland block party, staff delivered bilingual KYR sessions, distributed multilingual "red cards," and partnered with community organizations. In the past 5-6 months, the unit provided complex removal defense to 15+ Asian & Pacific Islander clients and maintains close ties with CERI to serve refugee communities.

Status Update from Trabajadores Unidos Workers United

[Attachment](#)

Iris Barrera-Hurtado, Field Director, Trabajadores Unidos Workers United, Alameda County United in Defense of Immigrant Rights (ACUIDIR) presented a PowerPoint presentation on their work on immigration rights.

- ACUIDIR held one on one conversations county-wide; trained 94 Bay Resistance volunteers for door-knocking in Dublin.
- Promoted and hosted a community forum on May 31 at Dublin City Hall (51 attendees) to share rapid-response resources, address fears about a proposed ICE detention center, and deliver on-site services (immigration & labor consults, family-preparedness plans, Know-Your-Rights session via CCIJ).
- Ongoing rights education, counseling, and preparedness planning for both impacted and non-impacted residents.
- Collaboration with CCIJ and local partners for legal support; invitations from community members to bring outreach into schools, churches, and neighborhoods.

Many residents are unaware of rapid-response hotlines and county supports, including rent relief, food-bank access, and other assistance when a family's breadwinner is detained. Court-appearance anxiety is prevalent, and immigrants need help arranging remote/Zoom hearings for those afraid to attend in person.

Next steps

Develop workplace emergency-exit plans and broader mutual-aid committees across Alameda County to respond if large-scale ICE raids like those in L.A. occur. Continue visible street-level presence so communities "see us where they live and work," sustaining organizing and defense efforts for the long haul.

Speakers

Sam Regan, Dylan Drury, Eric Espinosa, Manuel de Paz, Arlette Hackleman, Patricia Beebe, Mindy Pechenuk, Jesse Papalia, Christina Raya, Karen Shane, Leslie Firestone, Athena Wheaton, Max Litster, Velma Serrano, Hillary Chen, Sakura Saunders, Angelica Caballero, John Guerrero, Hilaria Barajas, and Gerald Pechenuk commented on the Current State of Alameda County Rapid Response Efforts Due to Increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Activity in California.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Introduction to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Drone First Responder Pilot Program

[Attachment](#)

Sergeant Fenton Culley, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Drone First Responder Pilot Program. Sergeant Fenton Culley is a 20-year deputy, supervisor of the Real-Time Information Center (RTIC) and Sergeant Justin Brannan, supervisor of the Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) unit are FAA Part 107-certified pilots.

Alameda County has flown drones since 2015, making it an early public-safety adopter. Policies were drafted with input from the ACLU, Public Defender's Office, County Counsel, and the Board of Supervisors; they are updated regularly.

The Drone First Responder (DFR) is currently used for tactical deployments; a drone is launched once deputies arrive on-scene; response time can be 5–40 minutes. DFR uses pre-positioned drone “pods” on county facilities (firehouses, stations, libraries) that launch automatically once a 911 call is detected in RTIC—often before the incident is dispatched to field units. Certified pilots operate the aircraft remotely from RTIC, guided by built-in FAA-approved radar to de-conflict with Hayward and Oakland air traffic.

Use-Case Examples

- Fire monitoring (thermal imaging for hotspots, evacuation guidance).
- Search-and-rescue and missing-person cases (e.g., quick recovery of a dementia patient).
- Officer-safety overwatch during felony arrests.
- Traffic collisions and hazardous material scenes.

The Sheriff’s Office has ongoing close coordination with local fire agencies and EMS. The UAS policy is publicly posted and is Fourth-Amendment compliant with civil-rights protections.

Next steps include a final vendor selection and procurement system which includes autonomous pods and transparency portal and then schedule the item for Board action in July.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item is informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.