



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

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Sheriff Lucero Issues Statement on Agency's Cooperation with ICE

Pueblo, CO: The following is a statement from Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero regarding the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office's cooperation with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office will cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to support them in instances when there are criminal charges or criminal nexus involved and for backup when officer safety concerns arise.

The Sheriff's Office **WILL NOT** support or participate in any round-up operations by ICE. "If there is something criminal related and we know the offender is in our county, absolutely we will support them," said Sheriff David J. Lucero. "We will not support any round-up operations. My role isn't to enforce immigration laws, I am not the federal sheriff. My role is to enforce Colorado law and to ensure the safety of the citizens of Pueblo County." Lucero further stated the sheriff's office does not have the resources to participate in operations to round up people who are in the country illegally.

Sheriff Lucero said he wants to quell rumors circulating in the community that Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies will assist ICE in conducting roundups at schools, churches and other similar venues.

He reiterated that deputies would continue to seek out and arrest anyone who is wanted for committing a crime and who is a threat to the safety of the community, but deputies will not be out looking to arrest people based on their immigration status alone.

Lucero added the Sheriff's Office has no record of any child in School District 70 who has committed a crime that would be sought by ICE, nor does the Sheriff's Office have or maintain a database of individuals who are living here illegally.

"What we will do is we will continue to comply with state law concerning immigration and cooperation with federal officials," Lucero said.

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