

Rensselaer County Sheriff Patrick A. Russo
Rensselaer County Undersheriff Edward Bly
4000 Main Street
Troy NY 12180

November 7, 2017

Dear Sheriff Russo and Undersheriff Bly,

We, the undersigned immigration, civil and human rights, legal, faith, labor, education, and community organizations and individuals urge you to reconsider your application to implement the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287(g) program in Rensselaer County. Since its inception in 1996, the 287(g) program has raised serious concerns in the localities that have implemented the program, including increased costs to county budgets, increased incidents of racial profiling, and decreasing trust between local law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. We strongly believe that the implementation of the 287(g) program will not serve the needs of Rensselaer County or its tax paying residents.

When a county chooses to implement the 287(g) program they must designate officers to be deputized by ICE by completing a four-week Immigration Authority Delegation Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at the ICE Academy. While ICE covers the cost of training deputized officers, state and local governments are responsible for the majority of costs associated with the 287(g) training including travel, housing, and per diem for officers. Counties are also responsible for salaries, overtime, other personnel costs, and administrative supplies. Additionally, although some of the costs of detention of immigrants may be reimbursed by the federal government through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), the federal government has never fully funded SCAAP, and reimbursements only cover a fraction of the costs spent by states and localities. A study by the [Brookings Institute](#) found that Prince William County, Virginia, had to raise property taxes and take money from its “rainy day” fund to implement its 287(g) program.

Additionally, although the 287(g) program purports to target the most serious offenders, an expansive study by the [Migration Policy Institute](#) found that nationally half of all immigration detainees issued through the program are on people who have committed misdemeanors and traffic offenses. When local law enforcement officers become arms of federal immigration enforcement, immigrant community members are recalcitrant to engage with the police--leaving the community less safe. The [Major Cities Chiefs Association](#) (MCCA), a group of police chiefs from the 64 largest police departments in the United States and Canada, found that “without assurances that contact with the police would not result in purely civil immigration enforcement action, the hard won trust, communication and cooperation from the immigrant community would disappear.”

Programs like 287(g) not only disincentivize immigrants, with or without legal status, from reporting crimes and participating in investigations and prosecutions, it also affects the U.S. citizens and green card holders who live, work, and share communities with them. Estimates show that one-third of all immigrants live in mixed status families, making it much less likely that those parents, spouses, and children would continue to trust in law enforcement officers who participate in this program.

Now is the time for our counties to stand up for all New Yorkers. We urge you to withdraw your applications for the ICE 287(g) program. We are ready to work with you and your offices to develop common sense police strategies that will promote public safety without risking alienating a portion of the communities you seek to serve by pushing them deeper into the shadows.

Sincerely,

Organizations

Albany Democratic Socialists of America
Albany Friends Meeting
Daughters of Charity - Province of St. Louise
Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice
ICE-Free Capital District
Kids
Latinos Unidos of the Hudson Valley
New York Civil Liberties Union, Capital Region Chapter
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
North Country Immigration Support
Saratoga Immigration Coalition
Social Responsibilities Council of Albany UU
St. Joseph's Church Fort Edward, NY
Stephen J. McKee Foundation
The Legal Project
Martha Barlai-Kovach Daughters of Charity - Province of St. Louise

Individuals (*title for identification purposes only)

Nic Abramson, UIDN*	Thomas Babiuch, St.	Karen Beetle
Zuhair Al-Atwi, Palestinian Rights Committee*	Joseph`s Church*	Patricia Beetle
Mary Armistead, Albany Law Clinic & Justice Center*	Bridget Ball Shaw	Arianna Beltrez, Project Totem, Inc.*
Miriam Axel-Lute	Carol Barclay, Albany Friends Meeting*	Jenifer Benn
	Martha Barlai-Kovach, Daughters of Charity - Province of St. Louise*	Pamela Bentien
		Julie Bentzen
		Natalie Birch-Higgins

Brandon Bissell-Evans
Vicky Boulay
Sarah Bratspis
Kathy Bryant
Linda Buckley
George Camacho
Camilla Campisi
Elizabeth Carivan
Barbara Carreker
Chris Chartrand, Albany
DSA*
Lynn Chase
Tom Cobb, PNECC*
Joyce Marie Cockerham

Emily Colgan
Diane Collins
Sean Collins, Troy Area
Labor Council/SEIU Local
200United*
Jenny Coronel
Megan Crandall
David Cullen
Rabbi Matt Cutler
John Cutro
Terry D'Aloia
Gwen D'Arcangelis
Lori Dawson
Francine Dempsey, Sisters
of St. Joseph*
Kelsey Diggory
Terence Diggory
Sister Marguerite E.
Donovan, CSJ
Stephen Downs
Lauren Dryburgh
Diane Dumouchel
Ashley Dunbar
David Easter, Albany
Friends Meeting*
Maud Easter, Women
Against War*
Hoby Ebert

Rev. John Ekman
Josh Elliott
Bob Elmendorf
Priscilla Fairbank
Colleen Farrar
Kimberley Felton
Jeanne Finley
Allison Fleck
Nina Fleishman
Mark Fleming
Carly Fox, Worker Justice
Center of NY*
Lisa Frisch
John Ghertner, Wayne
Action for Racial Equality*
Lee Gough
Jonathan Gradess
Peter Grimm
Lindsay Hall
Marian Hamwey
Susan Haney
Patricia Harrington
Margaret Heck
Yliana Hernandez
Marcia Hopple
Stephanie Houser
Margie Ingram
Lisbeth Irish
Donna Irvine
Naomi Jaffe
Sybillyn Jennings
Eleanor Joyce
Eileen Judge
Karen Kaufmann
Peggy Kaufmann
Karla Kavanaugh
Abby Kinchy
Sister Honora Kinney
Elizabeth Kluz
Mary Ann Krisa
Carrie Kuehl
Amy Lacey
Kim Lane

ConnieLaPorta
Jeannine Laverty
Matthew Lesniak
Linda LeTendrw,
Christian*
Lois Lippincott-Pino
Anne Liske
Diana Locker
Johana Londoño
Alexandra Lusak
Mary Lynch
Mickie Lynn
Kathy Manley
Luz Marquez
Michael Matza
Jennifer McErlean
Noreen McKee
Noreen McKee
Kelsey McKeighan
Nathan Meltz
Jonah Moberg
Janine Moon, Coalition
against islamophobia*
Linda Motzkin, Rabbi -
Temple Sinai*
Margarita Muinelo
Beth Muller
Elizabeth Murad
Benjamin Noonan
Margaret O'Dwyer
Cara Ocobock
Robert Odess
Martha Otterstedt
Kate Paarlberg-Kvam
Emily Pain
Marcel Parrilla
Veronica Perez
Jessi Peters
Leslie Phelan
Michael Plank, First
Presbyterian Church of
Hudson Falls*
Stephanie Pollanen

Geri Pomerantz
Janet Poole
Olivia Popiel
Jean Poppei
Elizabeth Price
Michael Quituisaca
Dylan Rees
Grace Rhee
Laura Richbart
Delaney Rives
Stan Roesler
Joan Rogers, First United
Presbyterian*
Professor Sarah
Rogerson, Immigration
Law Clinic, Albany Law
School*
Kristine Rooney
Jonathan Rosen
Rebecca Rothstein

Jonathan Rubenstein,
Rabbi - Temple Sinai*
Linda Russo
Andreana Sarkis
Amy Savage
Karen Schoemer
Zach Schwartz-Weinstein
Christopher Scully, Collard
City Growers*
Matthew Sekellick
Katelynn Shimkus
Margaret Shirk
Lovedeep Sidhu
Barbara Smith
Judy Smith
Robert Smith
Audrey Smolin
Audrey Smolin
Catherine Snow
Barbara Spring
Rebecca Starzyk

Andrew Stegemoeller
Emily Stewart
Christian Sundquist
Amaury Tañón-Santos,
Synod of the Northeast
(Presbyterian Church,
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Susan Taylor
Ann Townsend
Joanne Trapanese,
CCSM*
Roman Vidal
Rich Vitkay
Maureen Whitcomb
M. Wiard
Hadiya Wilborn
Sr. Virginia Wilkinson
Christina Wlodarczyk
Dustin Wright, Messiah
Lutheran Church*
Valen Zeltser
Emma Zuhlke