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June 7, 2024

## **Sent Via Electronic Communication**

The Honorable John A. Olszewski, Jr. County Executive, Baltimore County 400 Washington Ave. Towson MD 21204

Dear County Executive Olszewski,

Thank you for the letter dated June 6, 2024, from Deputy County Administrative Officer for Public Safety Rebecca Young in response to our questions about Baltimore County's policies regarding compliance with ICE detainers. In response to our questions, it was stated that adjustments have been made to current county policies, saying, "Following a productive meeting, Baltimore County and ERO officials agreed to adjustments to current county policies to support best our shared work, including making every effort to notify ICE officials 48 hours or more before an individual's release, whenever possible." While we appreciate the dialogue with ICE, this change is unfortunately not enough to protect the citizens of Baltimore County.

There is justified fear surrounding the release of Raul Calderon-Interiano, and the reported 70% of ICE detainers Baltimore County has not complied with. As Baltimore's ICE Field Director, Matt Elliston, said, "Raul Calderon-Interiano was convicted of sex crimes against a local child and posed a significant threat to other Maryland children. We will not tolerate the residents of our communities to be victimized by unlawfully present sex offenders." We could not agree more with Director Elliston's statement, as Baltimore County should not be the place where violent offenders, rapists, and pedophiles find a haven. As parents ourselves, it is deeply disturbing that Judge Alexander's directive to check for detainers was simply ignored, and a dangerous pedophile like Mr. Calderon-Interiano was merely released.

To protect Baltimore County residents, we are calling on you to immediately rescind the 2017 executive order by former County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, later updated in 2018 by former County Executive Don Mohler, that placed significant barriers on the Baltimore County Police and Department of Corrections ability to cooperate fully with ICE on detainers of these violent offenders. As you know, ICE is only listing detainers on violent offenders, rapists, and pedophiles. The citizens of Baltimore County deserve to know that your administration is doing everything it can to catch and keep these dangerous individuals off our streets.

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Finally, we request that you issue a new executive order instructing Baltimore County law enforcement and the Baltimore County Department of Corrections to fully cooperate with and assist ICE and their Enforcement and Removal Operations. The cooperative agreement between Baltimore ICE and Montgomery County in March of 2024 has resulted in the removal of numerous dangerous illegal immigrants from Maryland communities, including pedophiles, MS-13 gang members, and other violent criminals.

We believe issuing this new executive order would help facilitate detainers in a way similar to the recent Montgomery County agreement. Of additional importance, the judiciary system counts on Baltimore County to enforce ICE detainers as part of the sentencing determinations for illegal immigrants. In anticipation of the processing and deportation of these dangerous criminals, the courts must be able to trust Baltimore County to hold up its end of the deal.

We look forward to your response on this critical public safety issue.

Sincerely,

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Delegate Kathy Szeliga Delegate Ryan Nawrocki