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March 13, 2019

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Statement by Mayor Sam Liccardo in Response to the County's ICE Policy

San Jose, Calif. – “Law enforcement leaders in our region, including Santa County Sheriff Laurie Smith, District Attorney Jeff Rosen, and San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia, have urged the County to pick up the phone and notify federal authorities when a violent or predatory felon is about to be released into our community from the jail. I fully support that position. This common-sense approach has never been deemed unconstitutional by any court, nor does it require that the County detain anyone a minute longer than the Constitution allows. We can best protect our law-abiding immigrant communities—and the rest of our city—by cooperating with other agencies to prevent predatory felons from threatening the safety of our community.”

Background in Response to Recent Comments by County Elected Officials

- Neither Mayor Liccardo, nor the City of San Jose, ever supported the County’s position on this issue. To suggest otherwise contradicts the letter Mayor Liccardo sent four years ago, on July 10, 2015, where he urged the County to treat predatory felons differently from the rest of our immigrant community.
- The City did not take any legal position supporting the County’s current misguided policy. The City filed an amicus brief in support of the City and County of San Francisco’s opposition to threats by the federal government to cutoff Justice Department funding from local governments that declined to require their peace officers to perform federal immigration enforcement. City Attorney Rick Doyle can further respond to any inquiries on this matter.

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