



ICE

Secure Communities

What Others Are Saying...

About Secure Communities

Secure Communities

Secure Communities is U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) comprehensive strategy to improve and modernize the identification and removal of convicted criminal aliens from the United States. As part of this strategy, ICE is leveraging a federal biometric information sharing capability to quickly and accurately identify aliens in law enforcement custody. Once identified, ICE prioritizes convicted criminal aliens for removal from the United States. ICE is also conducting modeling and analysis of the current criminal alien enforcement process to ensure the right people, resources and processes are in place to make immigration enforcement more efficient and effective.

The National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, the New York State Sheriffs' Association and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police have all issued formal statements in support of Secure Communities.

Senator Orrin Hatch

U.S. Senate, Utah

Finance, Judiciary & Intelligence Committees

"By tapping innovative technology and sharing information between law enforcement agencies, Utah now has one more tool in its arsenal to protect our streets from criminal activity. Today's announcement [activation of IDENT/IAFIS interoperability] is certainly a step in the right direction, and in the near future, we hope to have even more Utah counties participate in the program." ¹

Sheriff Larry Campbell

Leon County Sheriff's Office, Florida

"Secure Communities is about information sharing and will reduce allegations of racial and ethnic profiling. This is not a random sampling of fingerprints submitted by officers on the street. The fingerprints of every person arrested and booked into the Leon County Jail will be checked against immigration records. [...] The use of Secure Communities means criminal aliens can no longer hide behind a long list of aliases." ²

Sheriff Mike Wade

Henrico County Sheriff's Office, Virginia

"[Secure Communities] enables us to get a more accurate picture of who we have in custody so we can best manage our time and resources." ³

Sheriff Matt McCaffrey

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, California

"This is a common-sense approach: Everyone who gets arrested gets checked for immigration status. In this case, they're already in the system for entering into the country illegally or for having a record. There are individuals in the country illegally and they're re-offending. Now, they're not going to be re-offending in Sonoma County." ⁴

Representative Henry Cuellar

Texas, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives

Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism

"Criminal elements are everywhere, and one of our duties is to ensure our residents are protected. This is important because it provides a process for getting criminal aliens off of our streets." ⁵

Washington Post

Editorial Board

"Secure Communities...authorizes an immigration check only if someone...has been charged. Even then, confirmation of illegal status rightly does not automatically trigger deportation. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) focuses on those with convictions for serious felonies including violent crimes." ⁶

Captain Gerald Cooper
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California

"It helps people from falling through the cracks, [...] it helps prevent us from allowing very dangerous people from getting out of custody and back into the community when they should be interviewed by ICE and potentially held by ICE." ⁷

Chief Sid Fuller
Farmers Branch Police Department, Texas

"[Secure Communities] is a great example of using interagency cooperation and technology to fight crime." ⁸

Sheriff Jim Winder
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, Utah

"This program [Secure Communities] strikes, in my opinion, the perfect balance between the need to maintain individual civil rights and the identification of people that have done criminal acts and will eventually be held accountable." ⁹

Sgt. J.D. Nelson
Public Information Officer
Alameda County Sheriff's Office, California

"We just submit our prints like we always have. It doesn't impact us or our workload one way or another." ¹⁰

Sheriff Lee Baca
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, California

"[Secure Communities] deters some illegal immigrants from committing crimes. People are more cautious because the program is in existence." ¹¹

Sheriff Rick Jones
Butler County Sheriff's Office, Ohio

"Before, we had people that were in our jail that had several aliases. We didn't know who they were. Sometimes they have 12 names, different Social Security numbers. They can't fudge or fake that fingerprint. That fingerprint detects—tells us who they are, tells ICE who they are. [...] And [Secure Communities is] actually here to deport and make arrests on criminal aliens, people who have come here illegally and have committed a crime or have a criminal history." ¹²

Lt. Basilio "Sonny" Cachuela, Jr.
Public Information Officer
Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, VA

"There are no community divisions being created with this program... We are not going out into the community seeking illegal aliens. No one is sought out, and no one is fingerprinted other than criminals processed into our jail." ¹³

Representative David Price
North Carolina, Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

"[Secure Communities] does draw that bright line between the federal role and the local role in immigration enforcement... I believe it can accomplish the task more efficiently to identify and remove dangerous criminals from our communities, which I think we very widely agree should be the main priority of immigration enforcement." ¹⁴

1. "Secure Communities expands to Utah," ICE press release, *www.ice.gov*, March 31, 2010.
2. "Leon County Sheriff's Office Joins ICE Secure Communities Initiative to Enhance Identification and Removal of Criminal Aliens," Leon County, Florida, Sheriff's Office, April 26, 2010.
3. "Additional Virginia jurisdictions to benefit from ICE strategy to enhance the identification, removal of criminal aliens," *Ethiopian Review*, April 24, 2010.
4. "New jail program targets illegal immigrants," Julie Johnson, *The Press Democrat*, March 2, 2010.
5. "County to share fingerprints with 'ICE,'" Ron Maloney, *The Gazette-Enterprise*, June 9, 2010.
6. "How to improve an immigration status check", *Washington Post*, March 20, 2011.
7. "ICE officers using program to control criminal immigrants," *San Bernardino Sun*, April 13, 2010.
8. "New program enhances identifying and deporting criminal aliens in more north Texas law enforcement agencies," *Kaufman Herald*, February 25, 2009.
9. "Utah Jails Using Federal Database To Identify Illegal Immigrants, KSL-TV (Salt Lake City), April 1, 2010.
10. "New Program Sends East Bay Inmates to Immigration Agents", *Contra Costa Times*, May 25, 2010.
11. "States Rebel Over Deportations", *The Wall Street Journal*, May 14, 2011.
12. "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren: Secure Communities: Fingerprint for Rounding Up Illegal Immigrants?," FOX News, July 27, 2010.
13. "Sheriff Defends Fairfax County's Partnership with Federal Agency", *Fairfax Times*, December 7, 2010.
14. 157 Cong. Rec. H3947-48 (daily ed. June 2, 2011) (statement of Rep. David Price).