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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OC Sheriff Don Barnes Terminates Immigrant Detention Contract with ICE**

*As the Orange County Sheriff's Department announces plans to end its contract with ICE and open up more jail space for mental health treatment for inmates, Vietnamese community members are concerned that the allocation of mental health resources within the Sheriff's Department will increase the incarceration of immigrant communities.*

**Little Saigon, Orange County, CA** - Today, Wednesday, March 27th, 2019, the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) announced plans to end its contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and will no longer be detaining immigrants within their jails. Instead, they plan to allocate funds to make more jail space for mental health treatment. Current detainees will be transferred to facilities outside of California and more beds will be opened up within the jails. Simply closing the OCSD's contract with ICE and making more jail space for mental health treatment is an incomplete step.

The [State of Immigration Enforcement in OC Report](#) released earlier this year reveals that Vietnamese community members are the second most targeted group referred to federal immigration enforcement by local law enforcement. Therefore, Vietnamese people are the second largest group not protected from deportation in Orange County. As a county of immigrants where Vietnamese refugees have been impacted by war that has led to negative impacts on immigration and mental health, there must be more responsible allocation of mental health resources that does not hurt immigrant communities.

To make Orange County safer and more inclusive of immigrants, Sheriff Barnes must denounce the rabid anti-immigrant voices he and the OC Supervisors enabled last year that spurred anti-immigrant sentiment within the county. VietRISE also calls for resources toward mental health services to be allocated to healthcare professionals and organizations with a strong, reliable track record of providing mental health support for inmates instead.

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