



Berkeley City Council

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 27, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmembers Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington  
Subject: Sign on to United Farm Workers petition to end Secure Communities program

RECOMMENDATION:

Sign on to the United Farm Workers petition to end the federal Secure Communities Program. Petition language reads as follows:

Your decision to force all localities to enroll in Secure Communities (S-Comm) is anti-democratic, and will further devastate our communities by placing innocent immigrants in deportation and breaking trust between police and immigrants. We demand that you terminate the S-Comm program immediately!

BACKGROUND:

From United Farm Workers:

Secure Communities or S-Comm is a highly criticized federal program that is deporting immigrants who have done nothing wrong, encouraging racial profiling, devastating communities around the country, and making us all less safe. **Under S-Comm authorities can deport a woman reporting domestic violence, instead of protecting her.**<sup>1</sup>With over 1 million men, woman and children deported under the Obama Administration, 60% with minor traffic violations, S-Comm has been proven detrimental to the hard working and innocent people.Huge immigrant states like Illinois and New York opted out of the program because it breeds distrust of the police .

Under the Obama Administration, ICE and DHS have gone out of their way to mislead the public about Secure Communities.<sup>2</sup> And despite rhetoric about supporting fair immigration reform and relief for our communities, their actions are speaking much louder than their words.

Until recently, the Obama Administration used to sign agreements with states, cities, and towns regarding whether or not these localities wanted to enroll in S-Comm. **But when local governments started to say they didn't want the program, the Obama administration changed their own rules.** Last Friday, they ended agreements with 42

states, claiming that local permission wasn't needed to force every local police department into the program by 2013.<sup>3</sup>

When local police start enforcing federal immigration law, local communities lose trust in their officers, and that makes us all less safe. Tell Obama that you don't want S-Comm in your community and that it's not right for him to force this program on us.

The United Farm Workers has fought hard to find real solutions to this broken immigration system and to protect the millions of farm workers toil in the shadows to harvest the food we eat every day.

**We need a massive outcry—and fast—if we are to stop this disastrous program. The UFW is working with Presente and other immigrant groups on this effort. Please sign our petition today.**

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:  
NONE.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jesse Arreguin, Councilmember, District 4      981-7140  
Kriss Worthington, Councilmember, District 7      981-7170

Attachments:

1. United Farm Workers Background and Petition regarding Secure Communities campaign



## Speak out against S-Comm: Sign the petition now.

Secure Communities or S-Comm is a highly criticized federal program that is deporting immigrants who have done nothing wrong, encouraging racial profiling, devastating communities around the country, and making us all less safe. **Under S-Comm authorities can deport a woman reporting domestic violence, instead of protecting her.**<sup>1</sup> With over 1 million men, woman and children deported under the Obama Administration, 60% with minor traffic violations, S-Comm has been proven detrimental to the hard working and innocent people. Huge immigrant states like Illinois and New York opted out of the program because it breeds distrust of the police .

**This week, the Obama administration just did the unthinkable: they have forced states and police departments to comply with this controversial S-Comm program**– a move guaranteed to deport many more millions of people.

The United Farm Workers has fought hard to find real solutions to this broken immigration system and to protect the millions of farm workers toil in the shadows to harvest the food we eat every day

**We need a massive outcry—and fast—if we are to stop this disastrous program. The UFW is working with Presente and other immigrant groups on this effort. Please sign our petition today!**

**Thank you and ¡Si Se Puede!**

References: 1. Domestic Violence Survivor Confronts Secure Communities Director, *Deport Nation*, 11/08/2010

Email Address: \*

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

State/Province/Region: \*

Zip/Postal Code:

\* denotes required field

### PETITION LANGUAGE:

Your decision to force all localities to enroll in Secure Communities (S-Comm) is anti-democratic, and will further devastate our communities by placing innocent immigrants in deportation and breaking trust between police and immigrants. We demand that you terminate the S-Comm program immediately!

