

July 30, 2025

Attorney General Bondi,

We respectfully request the Department of Justice immediately launch a formal investigation into coordinated actions by Santa Barbara County and its cities, which appear to intentionally obstruct federal immigration enforcement—potentially violating 18 U.S.C. §§ 1505 and 1512, and breaching public officials’ constitutional oaths. We request your support in this attempt to elicit wrongful action by Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown.

On July 25, 2025, The Santa Barbara Independent published an [open letter](#) led by Congressman Salud Carbajal, joined by 28 local officials, urging Sheriff Brown to “de-escalate” federal ICE operations in the region. This letter explicitly encourages law enforcement to resist or interfere with lawful federal action, undermining enforcement of federal immigration law.

More importantly, this campaign goes beyond words. SBC and the cities of [Santa Barbara](#), [Goleta](#), and [Carpinteria](#) have allocated taxpayer funds from general budgets to nonprofit organizations that actively assist undocumented immigrants in avoiding federal detection and removal. These NGOs, [805Undocufund](#) & [Immigrant Legal Defense Fund](#), to name two, help individuals evade detention and oppose ICE, raising concerns under 8 U.S.C. § 1324 about harboring or shielding undocumented persons.

The Santa Barbara City Council has called a [special meeting](#) on immigration Thursday, July 31, at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall.

We urge the Department to:

1. Investigate the signatories of the July 25 letter—including Congressman Salud Carbajal—for possible violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1505 and 1512;
2. Audit municipal funding to determine if public resources are being used to support illegal obstruction of federal law;
3. Assess whether these actions constitute a systemic breach of federal law and constitutional duty. This is not mere opposition; it is a taxpayer-funded, organized effort to undermine federal enforcement. Immediate action is necessary.

Respectfully,

Signers below

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