Call on the Hays County DA's Office to Drop the Charges Against Gerardo and Esteban Reyes

On March 14th, 17-year-old Esteban Victor Reyes and his father, Gerardo Reyes Gonzalez, were driving through San Marcos when they were stopped by SMPD officers. Unbeknownst to the two, their truck matched the description for a felony suspect. Because they did not know why they were being stopped and had no reason to believe they had done anything wrong, they refused to get out of the vehicle when the officers told them to. Although the officers quickly learned that the information that led them to stop them was incorrect, they arrested the pair anyway, and charged them with interfering with public duties, a misdemeanor. Both were taken to the Hays County Jail. Esteban was released on a PR bond, but Gerardo, an undocumented immigrant, was released to ICE. He is currently at the Hutto detention center.

Following a preliminary review of the arrests of Gerardo and Esteban, Jaciel Cortina, the officer who arrested Gerardo and Esteban was placed on administrative leave by SMPD — an indication that SMPD knows their arrests were improper and unnecessary.

But so far, the Hays County DA has not dropped the charges against Gerardo and Esteban. Gerardo is the sole breadwinner for the family — his wife was hit by a drunk driver in 2023 and is permanently disabled. Gerardo is facing the possibility of deportation, and an active criminal charge will be weighed against him. His hearing before the immigration judge is scheduled for May 12th, making time of the essence.

We're asking that you write to Hays County DA Kelly Higgins asking him to drop the charges against Gerardo. Need help composing your postcard or email? Here's a sample script.

Dear Kelly Higgins,
I am a resident of Hays County and an active member of the community. I'm respectfully asking that you drop the March 14th misdemeanor charges against Gerardo Reyes Gonzalez and his son Esteban Reyes. Gerardo and Esteban were wrongfully arrested due to a San Marcos police officer escalating a situation unnecessarily and inappropriately, as documented on video taken by Gerardo and Esteban during the stop. Gerardo and his family do not deserve to have their lives turned upside down because of this arrest. You can help reduce the potential harm of these arrests by dropping the charges against Gerardo and Esteban.
Sincerely,
[Your name]

Send your postcards to Kelly Higgins, Hays County DA's Office, 712 S. Stagecoach Trail, Suite 2057, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Send your emails to kelly.higgins@co.hays.tx.us

Stay Up to Date on Gerardo's Case and Donate to His GoFundMe at: linktr.ee/freegerardo