

# The Power of the Sheriff's Office

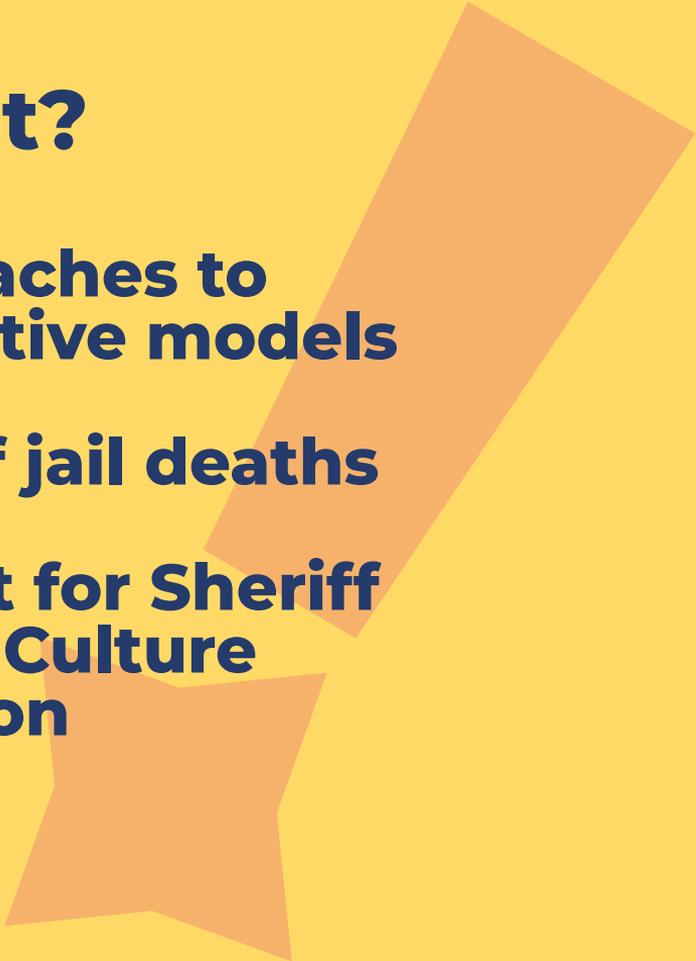
**Presented by:**

Sheriff Accountability Action

**Who Is Sheriff  
Accountability  
Action and What  
Do we Do?**



# How We Do It?

- 1. Testing local approaches to accountability & alternative models**
  - 2. Ending the epidemic of jail deaths**
  - 3. Growing the Movement for Sheriff Accountability and Culture Transformation**
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- A large, semi-transparent orange graphic consisting of a five-pointed star at the bottom and a triangle pointing upwards from the top right, overlapping the star.

# What Real Time Impact Looks Like



**Danny Ceisler**  
Bucks County (PA)



**Jackie Salvatore**  
Columbia County (NY)



**Kenneth Binder**  
San Mateo (CA)

# **SHERIFFS PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN OUR COUNTRY'S IMMIGRATION AND MASS DEPORTATION SYSTEM**

- **Funneling** about 50% of deportations through their jails at the end of the last Trump administration
- **Utilizing** cooperation programs like detainer requests
- **Acting** as federal enforcement through 287g agreements
- **Sharing** information with ICE



## What Are We Facing?

- Mass deportation (court houses, work sites, traffic stops)
- Loss of legal status (TPS, Parole, Asylum)
- Revoking student visas and green cards
- Attacks on birthright citizenship
- Threats to denaturalize political opponents
- Travel Bans
- Expanded the deportation machine beyond ICE
- Termination of Sanctuary Cities



# Signing 287(g) agreements empower deputies to act as immigration

**agents**

**Warrant Service Officer Model CE** trains, certifies and authorizes state and local law enforcement to execute ICE warrants

- **Jail Enforcement Model** gives power to “deputize” officers to interrogate and detain
- **Task Force Model** deputizes officers to question and arrest alleged noncitizens

# Many Sheriffs Collaborate with and act as local extensions of immigration authorities.

## ICE Detainers (Informal or Voluntary Collaboration)

Even without a 287(g) agreement, sheriffs may still cooperate with ICE by honoring **immigration detainers**—requests to:

- **Hold a person** in jail for up to 48 extra hours after their release date so ICE can take custody
- **Notify ICE** before a person is released

These are **voluntary** under federal law, but some counties honor them as standard practice.

# ICE x Sheriff Collaborate

## Notification Policies

Sheriffs may have policies to **notify ICE** when someone of interest is being released—even if they don't hold them past their release time. This is common in counties that claim to not "hold" people for ICE but still facilitate transfers.

# ICE x Sheriff Collaborate

## Jail Access

ICE officers may be **granted access to county jails** to:

- Interview individuals
- Conduct background checks
- Issue detainers or administrative warrants

This can happen even in counties that don't formally partner with ICE.

# ICE x Sheriff Collaborate

## Information Sharing

Sheriffs can share fingerprint and booking data with ICE through:

- **Secure Communities** (a federal program that shares fingerprint data from local bookings with ICE)
- **National databases** accessed by ICE through partnerships with DOJ and DHS

# Ways that harm-reduction Sheriffs can resist ICE and Protect their residents from them?

- Ending 287(g) agreements - in most states sheriffs are not legally required to enter into 287(g) contracts;
- All informal cooperation such as information and data sharing is voluntary. Sheriffs can direct their deputies to refrain from sharing any information with ICE that does not fall under the public record disclosures;
- Refusing to honor ICE detainer warrants. Detainer warrants are federal administrative warrants that state law enforcement is not legally obligated to honor. The only type of warrant local law enforcement officers are required to honor are signed judicial warrants

# Ways that harm-reduction Sheriffs can resist ICE and Protect their residents from them?

- We are in unprecedented times where new legal debate is taking place, and case law will be evolving on the question; can law enforcement can arrest ICE?
- Generally, ICE operates under federal authority, which puts them out of reach of state or local police.
- The (developing) exception to the rule: ICE agents can face arrest and/or prosecution under state law if they commit crimes that fall outside of their official duties.

# What Can We Demand?

- **Prohibit** any voluntary information and record sharing with ICE
- **Prohibit** deputies and jail staff from asking individuals about their citizenship
- **Refuse** ICE access to the jail without a judicial warrant.
- **Advise** noncitizens of their rights and provide a copy of all relevant documents.
- **Encourage** state sheriffs' associations to oppose federal immigration enforcement actions, such as ICE raids and arrests, and to oppose anti-immigrant state legislation.
- Implement policies to reduce arrests so that fewer people are brought to jails
- **Make Arrests** when ICE agents are in violation of state law and/or acting outside of the scope of their official duties

# What Can We Do?

- **Direct Action**
- **Monitoring** and **alerting** can help people protect themselves
- **Attend & Give** Know your rights trainings
- **System Changes:**
  - **Forcing Sheriff Resignations** through community pressure.
  - **Using Ballot Measures and County Commissioners:** When voters have the power to make direct change we should push for it!