

From: Bridget Winthrop [email:bridgetwinthrop@ucsb.edu]
To: Matt Kettmann, Senior Editor, Santa Barbara Independent
Subject: The Impact of Increased ICE Raids in Santa Barbara County
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2025

Dear Mr. Kettmann,

The nationwide rollback of the ICE Sensitive Locations Policy has led to an increase in ICE raids and deportation threats, with Santa Barbara County already reporting 15 ICE sightings since the presidential inauguration. The administration changes under President Trump have placed fear in the lives of many undocumented immigrants in the United States.

I would like to pitch a feature to *Santa Barbara Independent* on the recent surge in ICE raids across Santa Barbara County. As immigration enforcement intensifies, fear of deportation is growing, already causing declines in school attendance and workforce participation. My piece will explore how schools, businesses and city leaders are responding to this crisis and what resources are available to support affected individuals. Example interviewees include nonprofit workers, city council members and local immigrants.

This is something extremely relatable to the readers of the Independent, as the county is home to nearly 40,000 undocumented immigrants—all contributing greatly to the local economy, culture and overall community. It is urgent to inform the public about changing deportation policies, as changes daily under the Trump administration will impact all individuals, not just the undocumented.

I propose a feature of approximately 1,600 words that I can complete by Feb. 23rd. The piece will be accompanied by original photography or graphics illustrating the local impact, as well as hyperlinks to external immigrant resources.

I am a UC Santa Barbara global studies major with a minor in professional journalism. As a student journalist currently reporting on immigration issues in Santa Barbara, I am well-positioned to bring depth and nuance to this topic. I believe *Santa Barbara Independent* is the perfect platform for this piece, given its commitment to local and investigative reporting. Please let me know if you'd be interested in discussing this further; thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Bridget Winthrop
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