

## Equity Committee Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026, 10:30am - 12pm

Location: 1026 Escobar Street, #238/239, Martinez

Zoom: <https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82659107572>

Call in: 888-278-0254, Access code: 544753

### Attendance:

Supervisors: Ken Carlson, Shanelle Scales-Preston

ORESJ Staff: Kendra Carr, Peter Kim, Jessica Travenia

Community members and County staff were present in-person and online.

*Both Supervisors Carlson and Scales-Preston were in attendance, quorum was met. Meeting began at 10:30 AM.*

**Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).**

### Public Comment:

*None.*

- 1. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action from the March 16, 2026 meeting of the Equity Committee, with any necessary corrections.**

### Public Comment:

*No comment.*

*Moved by Scales-Preston, seconded by Carlson. Approved and received.*

- 2. RECEIVE and DISCUSS draft non-cooperation policy and PROVIDE direction regarding the draft policy.**

Attachments: [Non-Cooperation Policy - draft](#)

Supervisor Carlson presented the updated non-cooperation policy draft. Supervisor Scales-Preston asked to open for public comment.

### Public Comment:

Diane Bianchi: Member of League of Women Voters Diablo Valley, Presented a letter from the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley in support of the Ordinance

Dick Offerman: Opposed to Sheriff request and acceptance of SCAP funds run by Homeland Security. Opposes any data-sharing with ICE. References Minneapolis as a possibility for CCC.

Danny Espinoza: Lift Up Contra Costa supports an ordinance, not a policy. Urges acceptance of the original ordinance language proposed.

Tomas Espinoza (w/ community Spanish-English interpreter): Richmond resident for 20 yrs, Chair for Rising Juntos. Supports the original version. Discourages data sharing with outside agencies. Outside contractors should be made to comply. Highlights community trust and safety.

Christina Marin (w/ community Spanish-English interpreter): Concord resident, mother, Rising Juntos member. Community deserves to live without fear of being abducted. Discourages County resources used to assist federal agencies. Ordinance needed to hold the Sheriff or others accountable.

Carol Villalobos (w/ community Spanish-English interpreter): Rising Juntos member. Value all children and families live with dignity, safety, and freedom. Adopt ordinance that CCIRA drafted, not the policy. Prohibit the use of County resources to support ICE in any way.

Catherine Wally: Walnut Creek , Racial Justice Coalition. Expresses disappointment in the policy, recommends an ordinance. References July 2025 BOS meeting, she heard Sheriff will continue to collaborate with ICE even if not legally required. Urges contractor compliance in an ordinance, and removal of loopholes re: surveillance technology on communities.

Sylvia Angeles Vasquez (w/ community Spanish-English interpreter): Antioch resident, Rising Juntos member for 10 years. All deserve respect and dignity and safety. Equity Committee should have language interpreters; CBOs should not have to pay for interpretation for a County meeting. Protect communities in the ways we need. Include contractors.

Public Comment: Change back to ordinance. Homeland Security activity is spiking an CCC might be the next Minnesota. Need ICE-free zone similar to Santa Clara and Alameda Counties to prevent ICE staging actions on County property.

Cameron Sasai: lifelong CCC resident, Pinole Councilmember, Representing his role with CA Immigrant Policy Center. Immigrants are necessary contributing members of our communities and County. Urges a strong policy that is a statute and an ordinance, and serve as a model for the other County jurisdictions in CA.

Jessica Standish: Walnut Creek, medical physician for CCH. In her practice, children and adults impacted adversely by the deportation efforts of ICE. Reinstate contractor compliance, and other edits that bring back the original intent and strength of the ordinance.

Ogie Strogatz: Indivisible Resisters. Frustrated and disappointed with the current version. Revert back to an ordinance. Include accountability for Sheriff. Reinstate contractor compliance, and section on severability. As-is, this is a perfunctory exercise not a real effort to enact strong protections.

Judy Jewitt: Concord resident for 34 years. Urges the ordinance originally discussed, not the policy. Add back language that makes non-cooperation a required law, not just a recommendation. Urges to do what is morally correct.

Rich Whipple: CCIRA, Appreciates the conversation, but CCC is lagging behind other local jurisdictions. Urges BOS to create ordinance, law, and not just policy. Local government need not provide resources to aid the federal government. Strengthen with original wording. Need bold leadership not capitulation.

Maria Selma: CCC resident for 17 years. Expressed fear for family, community and self. Need an ordinance and not a policy to protect us. Community has the right to feel safe when going out for groceries and basic needs. Not a good representation from CCC.

Devin Williams: CCC resident, LUCC, and NAACP East County. Supports an ordinance in its original form. This moment is unlike anything in his lifetime, need bold leadership and stand together as a community. Fully supports and stands in solidarity with immigrant communities.

Paul Ridgway: Walnut Creek resident. Supports strong ordinance, not a policy.

Roxanne Carillo Garza: Not appropriate to pass a policy, need an ordinance. Cannot cower, lead with courage. Over 49 people have died in detention, and the majority have no criminal record. Leaning on leadership from our elected officials.

Alyssa Victory: ACLU attorney. Current draft falls short. Policy is weaker than an ordinance. Remove loopholes that allow a dept policy to override a County policy. Reincorporate language re: contractor compliance.

Debra Ballinger: Latino Voices CCC, Continued dangerous actions of ICE demand elected officials to respond with strength, an enforceable ordinance. Policy has loopholes, not protection. Return to the original ordinance, contractor and depts accountability, no information sharing with ICE.

Johana Gurdian: Disappointed that ordinance is now a draft policy. Promises were made to community. CCIRA and community have advocated for a strong ordinance for over a year. No decisions behind closed doors. Betraying the trust of the community. If no ordinance, offer transparency with community as to why, who made the decision, and the implications of going to a policy.

Mariana Moore: Please do your part, Equity Committee. Supports community voices to move back to ordinance. Be on the right side of history, listen to community. Protect all of our

communities, including our immigrant communities. Act with courage and honor what communities have told you today. Do not let County Counsel make the decisions for you.

Melvin Willis: ACCE and Racial Justice Coalition. A legally binding ordinance builds in the accountability needed. CCC is falling behind in protecting our community members in the face of racism and violence from ICE and federal administration.

Ali Saidi: Agrees with the other speakers. Speaks to urgency of the moment. Understands difficulty facing the BOS, recommends a meeting with community and legal advocates who worked with Carlson previously, along with Counsel, to fully understand the changes, edits, and reasoning to change to a policy. Welcomes a deeper conversation and urges timeliness.

Jillian Elliot: Citizen of Martinez. Protect immigrant communities. Protest the unlawful and brutal practices of ICE and Customs and Border Patrol. Cannot trust the Sheriff to protect our immigrant communities. Policy does not protect communities, adopt an ordinance. Concerned with surveillance, non-contractor compliance, and department loopholes.

Jessica Jollett: Delete the conflict of other dept policies, reinstate the contractor compliance, and ensure that County dollars do not support sharing of information to federal immigration agencies. Other jurisdictions like Los Angeles and Lynwood have passed strong ordinances.

Yehudit Liebermann: Cooperating with ICE makes a mockery of any claims that we support immigrants. ICE has murdered people, wreaks havoc, terrorizes communities, behaving like criminals. Need an ordinance without loopholes. Please protect all residents.

Joanna Gudino: Lifetime CCC resident, always believed our County led with our immigrant communities welfare at heart, but now feels we are behind what other counties have already done.

Doug Leich: Multi-Faith Action Coalition. Please return to the original language of the ordinance.

Amy Majorie: Walnut Creek, 18 yrs working for non-profit serving homeless and residents facing eviction. The times are like nothing in past 20 years, and can expect it to get worse. SF Immigration Court will close its doors.

Sonia Bustamante: SAFE Center. Appreciate that this item is on the agenda. If we are committed to not cooperating with ICE, then let's not cooperate with ICE. Other parts of the nation actors have exploited loopholes. Create an ordinance that protects Contra Costa residents.

Toni Henle: District 1 resident. We've seen what ICE has done in and outside of CCC. This policy shows that our County is not stepping up. As elected officials, please uphold the role to protect all county residents.

Susan Dunlap: Supports a strong ordinance.

Sara Gurdian: Budget Justice Coalition, stands with community. Supports a strong ordinance.

Jenny Morales: Monument Impact. City of Concord took 8 years to craft a strong rent control ordinance because of the loopholes in earlier versions. Let's not repeat that mistake. Change the policy back to a strong ordinance.

Jane Courant: Racial Justice Coalition. Support what others shared and stands in solidarity. History with the Sheriff shows the challenges with getting them to not share information with ICE.

Allie Smookler: Horrified about the ICE abuses. Reminded of the Nuremburg Principles, to speak up when we know injustice is happening. When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty. We must all speak up and against what is happening.

Additional written public comments received for April 20, 2026 meeting are included as attachments.

*Supervisors Carlson and Scales-Preston discussed the draft policy and posed questions to County Counsel. Requested sample policies/ordinances from neighboring jurisdictions. Requested another round of edits to bring back to Equity Committee for review.*

**3. INTERVIEW candidate, Jose Merlos, for the Advisory Council on Equal Employment Opportunity to fill the vacant Veteran's seat as recommended by the County's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer**

*Item was moved to the May meeting, due to time.*

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 18, 2026.

*Meeting adjourned at 12 PM.*