



**League of United Latin Americans Citizen**

September 8, 2009

Mayor Bill White  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251  
e-mail: [mayor@cityofhouston.net](mailto:mayor@cityofhouston.net)

Dear Mayor White:

These are challenging times in the midst of the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression and a resurgence of the kind of racial intolerance not seen since the height of the civil rights movement.

We call on you to immediately stop championing a federal government program that is making both challenges worse.

As Mayor, you have been eager to sign a 287(g) Jail Mutual Operating Agreement, which targets the Hispanic community along economic and racial lines as part of the controversial ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Program. The fact that only two other Texas cities have sought to participate is an indication of the program's controversial character. Yet, you have requested expedited enrollment-a direct insult to the estimated 1.5 million Hispanics who live in Houston as well as the many other hard-working citizens who have no interest in being identified with an official policy that attacks members of a specific community.

The Government Accounting Office has found that the program is rife with opportunities for civil rights violations, false arrests, and arbitrary jailing. The program lacks "key internal controls," according to sanctioned racial profiling and economic discrimination.

We have come too far to stand idly by while ambitious politicians run for higher office by trying to pit Texas voters against our community. We are voters, too-and our votes will go to candidates who in no uncertain terms reject the kind of racial profiling encouraged by the 287 (g) program you are so eager to participate in.

Sincerely,

Angela Garcia  
LULAC Texas Senior Advisor

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