



**Statement of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party  
on the Violent Detention of Ulises Peña Lopez**

*Released February 24, 2025*

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, a Sunnyvale father named Ulises Peña Lopez reportedly was arrested by federal immigration officers in a violent manner outside his home, in sight of his wife and three-year-old daughter. According to media reports, Ulises was in his car when he was surrounded by 10 or 12 federal immigration officers, who instructed him to exit the vehicle. He invoked his constitutional right not to speak, not to permit access to his vehicle, and to consult with an attorney. Officers reportedly said they had an order for his arrest but did not produce or show Ulises such an order. Officers then reportedly smashed his car window, pulled him from the vehicle, and restrained him with such violence that he had to be rushed to El Camino Hospital in Mountain View for treatment. At the hospital, immigration enforcement officers reportedly prevented Ulises from being seen by his family or his attorney for hours, and they refused to let him consult with his attorney privately, resulting in the attorney being unable to ascertain the complete facts relevant to his immigration status or the arrest. Ulises reportedly was detained to enforce an order of deportation, but there are no reports of any other justification for his arrest or prioritizing him for deportation. Ulises' wife and three-year-old daughter reportedly are U.S. citizens, and he is the only wage earner in his family. Ulises was subsequently transferred to an ICE detention facility.

Ulises' arrest, as reported, would constitute a grave violation of his constitutional and human rights. No person should be subjected to life-threatening violence for peacefully asserting their rights.

Further, Trump's demands for more visible "mass deportation" and his recent reassignment of a senior ICE official for failing to deliver on his campaign promise to his MAGA base has created an environment in which ICE officers may feel pressure to take dangerous and overly aggressive measures to detain nonviolent individuals such as Ulises, to meet their daily quota. Ulises' life and safety should not have been compromised to help ICE satisfy Trump. He is a person, not a number.

Finally, an enforcement policy that would prioritize deporting a person such as Ulises, which would separate him from his family and deprive them of their sole wage earner, is ill-

conceived and should be reversed. Ulises reportedly has lived in this country and our community for ten years without any incident. He is a gainfully employed father and husband who was on his way to work, not a criminal or a threat to our community. On the contrary, the violence on Saturday came from the immigration enforcement officers. We do not want or need a federal force smashing windows and dragging people out of their cars in our county. Such conduct makes our community more violent and less safe, not more secure.

We call on ICE to release Mr. Peña Lopez to allow him to be with his family as he heals and to ensure he will be available to provide testimony on the events of his arrest so that the officers involved can be held accountable for their decisions and actions resulting in his serious harm. Further, we call on our local representatives in Congress to demand an investigation into the events of Ulises' arrest and the Trump policies and priorities that resulted in the officers engaging in such violence against Ulises.