

To Morgan Hill Residents,

Sam Licardo, Mayor of San Jose, recently sent out a newsletter with an article addressing the impact that recent national events are having on his city and giving reassurance that the city will stand up for all its residents. On behalf of the Morgan Hill City Council and our staff, we are providing many of the same reassurances to our residents.

Like San Jose, a large percentage of our residents are foreign-born and many fear that changes in immigration rules or enforcement could separate their families. There are also concerns about proposed federal "registries" of community members of the Muslim faith. And the recent nationwide spike in "hate crimes" is causing even more fear. Here in Morgan Hill, we cannot control the events in Washington, D.C., but we can do much to care for each other here at home. We want to assure you that:

"Hate Crimes" will not be tolerated in Morgan Hill

Our Police Department is committed to enforcing laws against commitment of hate crimes without regard to the immigration status of the victim or reporting party. Please report all incidents to the Police Department at 408-779-2101.

Our Police will not be used for federal immigration enforcement

Changes to immigration laws and enforcement are the responsibility of federal policy makers. Local police should not be involved in federal immigration enforcement and our Police Officers will continue to focus their time on high priority crimes. In accordance with best practices of local law enforcement professionals nationally, we will stay out of immigration enforcement. Our priority is to maintain the trusting relationship Morgan Hill Police Officers have with our community.

Anyone who witnesses or is a victim of any crime can contact the Police Department without fear of inquiry regarding their immigration status.

Your Constitutional rights will be protected

We cannot know if assertions made during national campaigning -- like Muslim "registries" -- will come to fruition. We will monitor any proposed legislation or executive actions from Washington and work closely with our national, state and local representatives, other cities, and if necessary, the courts, to protect the Constitutional rights of our residents.

Discrimination based on race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, color or disability is prohibited under federal and/or state law. We will protect the rights of all our residents, regardless of background or sexual orientation.

Morgan Hill residents are highly ethical; we have a set of ethical values that are fundamental to the character of our community. Foremost among the ethical values is respect. Because we respect those we interact with, we treat them honestly, fairly and responsibly. In this time of uncertainty and fear, we encourage all our residents to maintain a high level of respect in all their interactions.

Thank you for making Morgan Hill a well respected and inclusive community.