

March 20, 2019

9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

For consideration of a request by East Flat Rock Grace Baptist Church to Close an Un-opened
Right of Way
Sign-up Sheet

Please Print

Name:

Address:

1.	Jeff Hawke	1st Baptist church pastor
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PUBLIC COMMENT SIGNUP SHEET

MARCH 20, 2019

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-52.1, the Henderson County welcomes public comment at its meetings. Please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes, unless a different time limit is announced. Also, the Board may adopt rules limiting the number of persons speaking taking the same position on a given issue, and other rules regarding the maintenance of good order.

Each speaker should be aware and by their signatures hereto they agree that their comments may be recorded (by audio-visual recordings, photography or other means), and may be (but are not required to be) broadcast by the County as a part of the broadcast of this meeting, or as a part of the County's programming on its local video channel(s). By their signature they further agree that Henderson County is and will be the sole owner of all rights in and to such programming. The undersigned hereby indemnifies Henderson County, its employees and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses arising out of the use of the undersigned's images and words in connection therewith.

1. Phil Rasmussen
PRINTED NAME

123 Haywood Park Dr
Hendersonville 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

191 widening
Topic

#1
2. Jim Price
PRINTED NAME

383 R. L. Garrison H. II Dr
Hendersonville 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

191 Widening
Topic

#2
3. Robert Coffey
PRINTED NAME

108 Benhurst Court
Hendersonville, NC
MAILING ADDRESS

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

191 Project R2588B
Topic

#3
4. CHARLES BRECKHEIMER
PRINTED NAME

30 Birchwood Views Dr
H'ville 28759
MAILING ADDRESS

[Signature]
SIGNATURE

recycling
Topic

5. ✓ Bill Hogan
PRINTED NAME
290 Ridgerview Hill Dr
Hendersonville, NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

William A Hogan
SIGNATURE
Proposed NC 191 Widening
Topic
#4

6. ✓ Mark Stickney
PRINTED NAME
106 RIDGEVIEW HILL DR.
HENDERSONVILLE NC. 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

Mark Stickney
SIGNATURE
PROPOSED NC 191 WIDENING
Topic
#5

7. ✓ Jayne Stickney
PRINTED NAME
106 Ridgerview Hill Dr.
Hendersonville NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

Jayne Stickney
SIGNATURE
proposed NC 191 widening
Topic

8. ✓ Liz Agnello
PRINTED NAME
45 Majestic View Ct
H'ville 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

Liz Agnello
SIGNATURE
191 widening
Topic


9. ✓ Stan Moore
PRINTED NAME
214 Windserforest Circle
Fletcher, NC 28732
MAILING ADDRESS

Stan Moore
SIGNATURE
New Branch Library
Topic

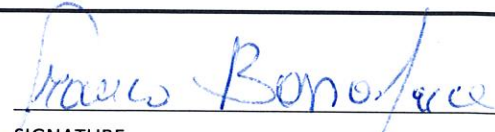
10. ✓ Howard Bakken
PRINTED NAME
101 Stillwater Ln
H'ville NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS

Howard Bakken
SIGNATURE
191 Widening
Topic


11. ✓ Michael Hemby
PRINTED NAME
146 triple cr. Drive
hendersonville NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
191 widening
Topic

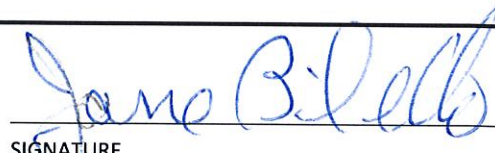
12. ✓ FRANCO BONAFACE
PRINTED NAME
23 triple creek Drive
Hendersonville NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
191 Project
Topic


13. ✓ PAUL T REDUCK
PRINTED NAME
106 Cinnamon Blvd
HENDERSONVILLE, NC
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
2879
Topic


14. ✓ Jane Bilelb
PRINTED NAME
218 Vincent Pl
HVL, NC 28739
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
2879
Topic

15. ✓ Dan Watson
PRINTED NAME
124 Nob Hill RD
HVL, NC 28791
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
191 Project
Topic

16. ✓ JIM DUFFEE
PRINTED NAME
54 STAWNS CREEK LN
H'ville 2879
MAILING ADDRESS


SIGNATURE
ILlegal ALIENS 2876
Topic

Presentation to County Commissioners March 20, 2019

Good Morning. I come before you as a very disgruntled resident.

Twice I have appeared before you, along with several others, to present a citizen's view of DOT's plan to widen 191. You have been given many documents and references concerning the need to reassess and redesign this project. You have been told about international, federal and state studies which state that 3 lane widening is safer, more efficient, and less costly than the planned 4 lane expansion of 191

Commissioner Lapsley, at a previous TAC meeting, stated that you have not seen anything significant to change your minds on redesigning 191.

Since there has not been any movement on the Board's part to investigate and seriously consider the input from your constituents, I can only come to the following conclusions concerning the 191 project:

1. That the Board's authority had been usurped by the Balfour Parkway uproar, and you are now once bitten twice shy.
2. That you have closed your minds to the concerns of our residents over the widening of 191.
3. That those who appear before you are not DOT highway engineers and thus are not creditable.
4. That you have not bothered to read or research those documents that have been presented to you. A lot of time, effort, and research have gone into those documents. The least you can do is to take the time to read and acknowledge the information presented and to solicit further information.

According to a Highway Safety Information System comparative study of 4- and 3-lane highways, North Carolina could not participate because it did not have a sufficient number of 3-lane highways. This should tell us something.

Hence I can only conclude that the reason you were presented with 4-lane expansion plans was that DOT does not have sufficient experience to create 3-lane plans. At the least, DOT should have provided the board with a plan for each lane configuration so that you could come to an informed and wise decision.

I will repeat it again. International, federal and several state highway studies have shown that 3-lane highways are safer, more efficient, and less costly to build and maintain than a 4-lane highway expansion of a roadway that borders many subdivisions, few businesses, and two public schools.

Put a stop to the 4-lane expansion of 191 and reconfigure it to a 3-lane highway which most of us want.

Thank you

Phil Rasmussen, US Army-retired
123 Haywood Park Dr
Hendersonville NC 28791
828-329-5419
pmrii@wcart.net

Handout #12

March 20, 2019

Good morning Commissioners,

My name is Jim Price. I live in Ridgeview at Sweetwater Hills and serve on the Board for the Homeowner's Association. My wife and I chose to live in Henderson County. We were attracted by the quality of life and rural charm. I will speak about widening NC-191.

My subdivision has met twice with NCDOT to discuss this project. NCDOT was not interested in resolving our concerns. They said widening 191 is necessary due to the 2040 Traffic Forecast. The table below shows years 2017 actual versus 2040 forecast with the road widened to four lanes and without widening.

	vehicles per day		
	actual 2017	four-lane 2040	two-lane 2040
Boylston Highway - Banner Farm Road	12,400	16,600	16,500
Banner Farm Road – School House Road	9,700	12,500	12,500
School House Rd – North /South Rugby Rd	11,700	15,800	15,800
North /South Rugby - Haywood Knolls Dr	13,800	18,800	18,600
Haywood Knolls Dr - West Henderson HS	14,400	19,500	19,300
West Henderson HS - Bradley Road	13,600	18,800	18,600
Bradley Road - Rugby Middle School	11,900	16,500	16,200
Rugby Middle School - Mountain Road	11,000	15,600	15,300
NCDOT indicated the capacity is:		31,700	16,700

Only the section from Rugby Road to Bradley Road exceeds the two-lane capacity in 2040 (**in Bold**). I support improving our roads where traffic and safety require. I do not understand why the section of 191 from School House Road to Rugby Road and from Bradley Road to Mountain Road should be widened based on NCDOT's 2040 forecast.

Widening 191 will destroy a mile of tall trees that buffer noise, dust, and wildlife near the French Broad River. I have observed strong winds blowing clouds of top soil toward 191 when the adjacent farms lie fallow. These trees create a windbreak that improves driving conditions and helps mitigate soil erosion.

A neighbor has measured traffic noise at 67 decibels one-half mile from 191. A four-lane road will allow traffic to move at higher speeds causing more noise. NCDOT should build earthen sound berms along the road to mitigate noise. They should plant evergreen trees on top to shield the visual impact, reduce soil erosion and enhance driving safety.

Henderson's Soil & Water Conservation District has worked to reduce soil erosion along the creek at the rear of my property. Their design was based on the current drainage area without additional runoff from widening 191. A corner of my lot and my neighbor's lot would be taken as part of an easement for the widening project. The creek cannot handle the additional storm water from a four-lane roadway without major modification.

I ask the Commissioners to defer building a four-lane median divided highway from School House Road to Rugby Rd and from Bradley Road to Mountain Rd until the traffic forecast justifies. Then please ask NCDOT to:

- * • Build earthen sound berms from Merriwood Lane to the French Broad River to mitigate traffic noise.
- Plant evergreen trees on top of the sound berms to shield visual impact, mitigate soil erosion from the farms, and improve driving conditions.
- Control the storm water runoff into the creek along the west property line of my subdivision to prevent soil erosion.

Thank you

191 Alliance Project

Good morning. My name is Robert Coffey and I live in Ridgeview subdivision, just off North Rugby Road and flanked by Rte. 191.

Members of our HOA met last week to develop an action plan to fight the proposed widening plan. We set two objectives; (1) to collect 2,500 signatures on a petition to **Reassess and Revise the 191 Four Lane Expansion Project (NCDOT R-2588B)** and (2) to make presentations at this meeting.

We agree that improvements must be made, but we feel that the proposed project consisting of a limited access 109 foot wide, four lane divided highway with bike and/or multiuse lanes is overkill. This would produce a traffic bottle neck at Mountain Road where it will be reduced to only two lanes. Once Balfour Parkway was defeated, this makes no sense at all. We ask that it be replaced with a three lane road without the limited access.

The interim project currently underway is supposed to extend the turn lanes to accommodate the heavy traffic from student drop offs and pick-ups at Rugby Middle School and West Henderson High School. It just restarted on Monday and the turn lane extensions should bring significant improvement immediately on completion, thus reducing the need for R-2588B.

Along the 4.2 miles from Boylston Highway to Mountain Road, there are 74 driveways and streets that open onto 191. These include private residences, 11 subdivisions, 25 businesses and the Mills River Center where residents and customers will be forced to turn right and seek a U-Turn. However, there are no indications of any U-Turns on the NCDOT aerial maps. Apparently, they will be integrated into the existing traffic intersections; thus, actually creating significant extra traffic flow that will only exacerbate the current situation. This is totally unnecessary and wasteful of time and gasoline, as well as an annoying inconvenience.

We have read that quotes for NCDOT projects have exceeded the original cost estimates by over 50%. Reducing the scope of this project to three lanes should be much less costly, so it should be a win-win compromise.

Robert Coffey
 108 Benhurst Court
 Hendersonville, NC 28791
 828-595-5000

A

REDUCTION OF PLASTIC BAG USAGE

58 million single-use plastic bags used/year in our county

{about 500 bags/person X population}

bags are hard to recycle (clog machinery) and are banned from our recycling stream and cost about 4¢ each

what do we do with single-use plastic bags now?

a) wash and reuse < 1%

b) recycle in store bins 2-3%

c) trash, roadways, **waterways** > 95%

that means we spend about \$2 million to buy bags that are then tossed

single-use bags are being successfully dealt with in many locations, including the state of Hawaii, Charleston, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, the Outer Banks, and dozens of smaller cities

THE SOLUTION : REUSABLE BAGS

available at all stores at reasonable cost - why don't more people use ?

we forget to carry reusable bags into stores (in trunk of car) and we prefer to follow old habits (change is hard)

BUT plastic bags are made from oil, and putting them in the trash is like "pouring oil down the landfill." A huge waste of \$ and resources !

I ask **THE COUNTY BOARD'S HELP**, in the form of a countywide regulation

- 1) strongly encouraging customers to utilize their own reusable bags for merchandise, with some exceptions
- 2) requiring stores to charge 5¢ each for single-use bags
- 3) mandating that stores set up and maintain recycling bins for the small number of single-use bags sold

Stores (especially grocery stores) can save the cost of plastic bags (about 4¢ each) or up to **\$2 million/year**. Finally, Henderson County should also save money on landfill tipping fees, since single-use bags will not be taken home by customers, and will never enter the waste stream, nor will they pollute our environment.

It's worked elsewhere. Let's try It here.

Charles Breckheimer, Tutor
Chemistry

30 Birchwood Views Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739
Phone: (828) 697-1442
Email: breckschorr@aol.com



BS: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MS: Cornell University

MAT: Cornell University

Reject the Planned NC 191 Expansion

Good morning, I mentioned at your last meeting that I have 37 years of law enforcement experience with the last 24 years as a chief of police in three municipalities.

School safety throughout my police career was, and still is, an important issue to me. I continue to think of the impact the proposed four lane highway will have on West Henderson High School and Rugby Middle School. If developed, NC 191 will look like I 26 with cross streets. With that in mind, the four lanes will attract more traffic since it will eventually become a major east/west roadway system. In the long run, we will have more traffic traveling at greater speeds as these vehicles drive past the schools.

In addition, this increased traffic, traveling at faster speeds, will come into direct contact with students that have recently received their drivers' licenses. I know from my experience that many accidents occur as a result of inexperienced drivers. The combination of these drivers and a busy four lane highway, will add to the potential risk for serious traffic crashes.

For this reason, I am asking that you have the size and the scope of this project reevaluated before proceeding with land acquisition.

Another issue can be found in the Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The first paragraph in "A Brief History of Henderson County", states, "Southern hospitality, peaceful summer evenings, beautiful environment, a strong economy - these characteristics and more make Henderson County, North Carolina, home. Parents want to raise their children here and retired folks want to enjoy their work-free days here."

Building a four lane divided highway, running through rural and residential areas, pretty much destroys the description of peaceful summer evenings and a beautiful environment. I have met many retirees that intentionally moved here. They tell me they selected this location to enjoy the natural beauty, experience the temperate climate and to immerse themselves in a more laid back and quiet community. With the expansion of NC 191, it will destroy the sense of peace we now have and replace it with the noise, pollution and the unsightly image of a major highway.

The traffic counts and crash data do not justify the construction of this roadway, now or in the distant future. Once built, it will draw the traffic from other roadway systems. This process leaves the citizens living around NC 191 feeling disenfranchised. It appears our peace and enjoyment of the beauty of this area will be sacrificed for an unnecessary project simply because the money has been budgeted without adequate justification.

Again, I am asking that you have this project reevaluated and look at it through the eyes of citizens living around this portion of NC 191.

Thank you,

Bill Hogan
290 Ridgeview Hill Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28791
(828) 216-1531

Howard Bakken

- I'm Howard Bakken. I have lived at 101 Stillwater Lane in the Triple Creek Community on Highway 191 since 2003, a sufficient time to have provided me an extended awareness of Hwy 191 traffic activity, as well as a vested interest in protecting our home and the homes of our neighbors. I am a Past President of the Triple Creek Property Owners Association.
- We don't propose that the Hwy 191 Widening Project ~~should~~ be cancelled. Funding is already authorized through the regional prioritization process and should provide improvements ~~in this section~~ that would be beneficial. We believe ~~that~~ the design, based upon its original intention to connect to the Balfour Parkway, should be reconsidered to address the problems at the schools and at the major intersections. The current design is overkill and inappropriate. We do not want to abandon the opportunity for improvements, but rather to reduce the impact on the environment and the quality of life in the area.
- We are not professional highway designers, so we are not proposing specific solutions, only trying to get the forecasted needs properly addressed.
- The desired reevaluation should include the reduced traffic forecasts without a Balfour connection. Projections for future growth should recognize that past growth has been much slower than expected outside the Mills River town limits.

Bakken (2)

- One Commissioner, Mr. Lapsley, has a singular influence on NCDOT projects in Henderson County. His career operating a civil engineering company in Hendersonville provided him with vast experience understanding how to deal with NCDOT. He represents the Commission on the County's Transportation Advisory Committee, where he spoke on this subject at the February meeting,
 + w) quoted in the Minutes as saying that the NCDOT widening design "is endorsed by the County Board of Commissioners." Mr. Lapsley represents the Commission on the region's French Broad River MPO which coordinates project priority with the NCDOT. But we look to ALL Board members to participate in considering whether enough has changed to warrant another look at the details.
- Here is a poster showing the current Hwy 191 superimposed on the DOT's plan. Not only is the divided 4-lane much wider, but the centerline is offset such that it requires acquisition of property along the entire frontage of the Triple Creek subdivision.
- Please recognize that the elimination of the Balfour Parkway has significantly reduced the forecasted traffic and that the NCDOT should be encouraged to identify any opportunity to consider altering the design to eliminate unnecessary acquisition of private property.

Howard Bakken

FACT SHEET: Illegal Immigration Impact on the U.S.

- In 2017-2018, roughly 235,000 illegal immigrants were arrested on various criminal charges or convictions within the interior of the United States—including roughly 100,000 for assault, 30,000 for sex crimes, and 4,000 for homicides. <https://heritageaction.com/toolkit/immigration-toolkit>
- Monthly Child Rape Charges by Illegal Aliens in NC: for complete list of all years <http://www.ncfire.info/>

January 2019 in NC: 17 illegal aliens arrested for 171 child rape/child sexual assault charges in NC
<http://www.ncfire.info/january2019.pdf>

December 2018 in NC: 20 illegal aliens arrested for 52 child rape/child sexual assault charges in NC
<http://www.ncfire.info/december2018.pdf>

November 2018 in NC: 21 illegal aliens arrested for 91 child rape/child sexual assault charges in NC
<http://www.ncfire.info/november2018.pdf>

October 2018 in NC: 22 illegal aliens arrested for 81+ child rape/child sexual assault charges in NC
<http://www.ncfire.info/october2018.pdf>

- **Report: 3,160** Hispanic absconders from N.C. justice: <http://ncfire.info/2017absconders.pdf>

- **Cost of Illegal Immigration**

63% of Non-Citizen Households Access Welfare Programs

Compared to 35% of native households

https://www.cis.org/Report/63-NonCitizen-Households-Access-Welfare-Programs?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social-media&utm_campaign=addtoany&fbclid=IwAR3WKKKOrFBV1of3vG7NRtQ-Up3KBSS7oY4y2yFTNf5eFRiwIYmlfZu5oe8

- **Mapping Immigration's Impact on Public Schools**

The number of children from immigrant households in schools is now so high in some areas that it raises profound questions about assimilation. What's more, immigration has added enormously to the number of public school students who are in poverty and the number who speak a foreign language. This cannot help but to create significant challenges for schools, often in areas already struggling to educate students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. <https://cis.org/Report/Mapping-Impact-Immigration-Public-Schools>

- **The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers**

At the federal, state, and local levels, taxpayers shell out approximately \$134.9 billion to cover the costs incurred by the presence of more than 12.5 million illegal aliens, and about 4.2 million citizen children of illegal aliens. That amounts to a tax burden of approximately \$8,075 per illegal alien family member and a total of \$115,894,597,664. The total cost of illegal immigration to U.S. taxpayers is both staggering and crippling. In 2013, FAIR estimated the total cost to be approximately \$113 billion. So, in under four years, the cost has risen nearly \$3 billion. This is a disturbing and unsustainable trend.

<https://fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>

287g FACT SHEET:

The following is from Bryan D. Cox, Southern ICE Director regarding the facts on the 287g program and its relationship with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- The Henderson County 287g program remains in operation as of 2.25.19.
 - All persons encountered through 287g programs have a “criminal background” as the program exists only within the confines of detention centers to screen persons who’ve already been arrested and booked into jail on local criminal charges.
 - No person is encountered via 287g unless they’ve already been criminally arrested by local law enforcement for a violation of North Carolina criminal law.
 - The 287g program grants absolutely zero additional arrest authority and does not empower local law enforcement to arrest a person based upon their immigration status. It’s solely a screening tool that takes place pursuant to a criminal arrest already made.
 - The only persons encountered via 287g are persons who have been criminally arrested. If a 287g program is rescinded, and ICE is forced to conduct more at-large arrest operations, that is likely to result in more unlawfully present persons being encountered by ICE, not less.
 - Stats for Henderson County: FY18 the Henderson County 287g program encountered and screened 44 foreign nationals pursuant to their arrest in Henderson County. Of those 44 foreign nationals, 24 had prior criminal convictions before their most-recent arrest that resulted in their screening through the 287g program. The program screens all foreign nationals who come through the jail, and Henderson County screened persons of Cuban, European and Middle Eastern nationalities in addition to Mexico and Central America.
 - Here are the total number of encounters and removals for Henderson County for the past three years
- FY18 287g: Henderson County: 44 encounters (24 with prior criminal convictions before most-recent arrest), 39 removals (32 with criminal convictions)
 - FY17 287g: Henderson County: 82 encounters (75 with prior criminal convictions before most-recent arrest), 30 removals (26 with criminal convictions)
 - FY16 287g: Henderson County: 58 encounters, 5 removals
- Per the U.S. Census Bureau, 7.5 percent of the residents of Henderson County are foreign born: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/hendersoncountynorthcarolina>. Compare the total number of arrests made in Henderson County during FY18 and then compare those numbers, claims of racial profiling simply are not supported by those stats.
 - Should any county choose to withdraw from 287g it is important for persons to understand that does not mean immigration enforcement will decrease in that location; in fact, it’s likely such an area would see a greater ICE presence in the community, as in jurisdictions that do not cooperate with ICE the agency has no choice but to target specific persons on the streets that it otherwise would’ve taken into custody at the detention center.

OVER

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Mr. Wyatt and staff, it has come to my attention that there have been conversations, questions, and even petitions concerning the Federal 287(g) program. The content of most of these questions and conversations detail misinformation associated with the program and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as I.C.E. Recent developments across North Carolina have served as a catalyst to fuel debate resulting in public misinformation. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight concerning operations in Henderson County.

First and foremost, it is imperative that we recognize there is a difference between honoring a detainer placed on a criminal alien by I.C.E. and contracting with the federal government to assist in identifying criminal illegal aliens as outlined in section 287(g) of 8 USC 1357.

Detainers are issued by federal officials from I.C.E. The detainers that are transmitted to a local agency, typically via fax, are the result of the identification of a criminal alien after they are arrested and processed into a local jail. During any arrest process, certain biometric information, such as fingerprints, are obtained and submitted to the state and federal government electronically. I.C.E. may use this information to discover that an alien has a previous history with I.C.E., or the criminal justice system, and choose to place a detainer on the person for deportation proceedings. I.C.E. will then transmit a detainer to the county jail where officers have the authority to place a hold on the criminal alien for I.C.E. Once the person detained has met the conditions of release concerning the state charges for which they were initially arrested, I.C.E. has 48 hours to take custody of the detainee. This process does not only apply to counties with a 287(g) contract, it applies nationwide. Some Sheriff's in North Carolina have made the decision not to honor the federal detainers. Only 4 counties in N.C. have a 287(g) contract with a total of only 78 counties nationwide participating in the 287(g) program.

The key point to the federal detainers is that the detainee is identified due to their biometric identifiers being in the system from a previous investigation or arrest. An illegal immigrant who has not had prior contact with I.C.E., or the criminal justice system, will not have identifiers in the system.

The 287(g) program is mistakenly used synonymously with the federal detainers. The 287(g) is an act of the federal government which allows local agencies to partner with I.C.E. in identifying and detaining criminal aliens. This program only allows the Henderson County Sheriff's Office to identify an illegal alien **ONLY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND BROUGHT INTO THE JAIL ON STATE CHARGES**. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office has no authority to even ascertain the immigration status of an individual in the field, and certainly no authority to detain an illegal immigrant in the field. The authority of the Henderson County 287(g) officers rests **SOLELY WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE JAIL**.

Under the current 287(g) contract, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office has the authority to identify and place detainers on criminal illegal immigrants. Only officers that are certified and deputized by I.C.E. can place these self-initiated detainers. These officers must travel and spend over a month out of state training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to be able to identify and place a hold on an illegal immigrant. The initial training is followed up by annual in-service training that must be completed by all 287(g) officers.

The identification of aliens and creation of detainers in house can take from 2 to 12 hours to accomplish. The research and background checks that must be accomplished leading up to the placement of a detainer is extremely time consuming. This very act can be redundant as many times the 287(g) officer will spend valuable time identifying an alien only to have I.C.E. officials transmit a detainer through the process described previously.

The 287(g) process is burdensome to the operation of the jail and taxpayers as federal government provides NO funding for the program in Henderson County. The only funds that the program could provide is for housing and transportation, which go hand in hand. Henderson County is no longer able to contract to house federal inmates due to our rising jail population and the lack of available bed space.

Currently I.C.E. has agents assigned in Henderson County that work hand in hand with our jail officers. We will continue to maintain a strong working relationship with these federal I.C.E. agents assigned to Henderson County. I believe the most efficient way to pursue the criminal aliens in our area is to work directly with federal I.C.E. agents.

I will sum this up with a few points:

- I.C.E. detainers are placed on criminal aliens regardless of participation in the 287(g) program and Henderson County will continue to honor these detainers.
- The 287(g) program is burdensome to local taxpayers. There is no funding for the local program from the federal government and continuing the current contract will require additional county funding.
- Regardless of the 287(g) program, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office has no authority, and has never had the authority, to participate in any I.C.E. operations outside the walls of the jail.
- The Henderson County Sheriff's Office only becomes involved in matters of immigration status after the person has been charged with a state crime and is committed to the Henderson County Jail.
- Federal I.C.E. Agents are assigned in Henderson County and work routinely with the Henderson County Jail Officers.

- The most efficient way to identify the criminal illegal aliens in Henderson County is to work directly with the federal I.C.E. agents and support them as they investigate and detain criminal aliens.

In closing, I want to express that I intend to serve ALL the people of Henderson County. My priority will always be to keep the people safe and focus on getting the criminals off our streets. I refuse to offer sanctuary to the CRIMINAL ELEMENT of any demographic. The surest way to keep the Henderson County Sheriff's Office from looking into a person's background, including their immigration status, is to avoid committing a crime that will bring them into the Henderson County Jail.

Sheriff Lowell S. Griffin