



Loved by those who love technology™.



The All-New 2014 Forte

[VIEW INVENTORY >](#)

[Log in](#) | [Subscribe Today](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [eRegister](#) | [Today's Paper](#) | [Weather](#)

[CARS](#)  
[JOBS](#)  
[HOMES](#)  
[SHOP](#)

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obits](#) | [Knowledge Cafe](#) | [Register Connect](#)

[Cities](#) | [Crime](#) | [Traffic](#) | [Education](#) | [Watchdog](#) | [Science](#) | [Government](#) | [California](#) | [Military](#) | [Nation](#) | [More](#) | [Weather](#)

NEWS

# Santa Ana looks to charge more for detainees held at city jail

[g+1](#) | [Tweet](#) 1 | [Email](#) | [Share](#)

BY ALEJANDRA MOLINA / STAFF WRITER  
Published: May 15, 2014 Updated: 11:55 a.m.

SANTA ANA – City officials want to charge federal agencies more for detainees they hold at the city jail, amid objections by immigrant-rights activists who want to see an end to deportations.

The jail opened in 1997 and has contracts with the U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The largest number of those held at the jail come from the marshal, followed by ICE detainees.

PAUL RODRIGUEZ, PAUL RODRIGUEZ,  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under contracts with the U.S. Marshals and ICE, the city receives \$82 per inmate per day, according to a memo prepared by City Manager David Cavazos.

In fiscal year 2013-14, the total cost to operate the jail is \$22.5 million, including debt service and indirect city hall costs, according to the memo. Excluding the \$4 million the city makes in reimbursable costs and in processing and booking prisoners, the net cost to operate the facility's housing component amounts to about \$18.5 million in fiscal year 2013-14, it says.

To recover the \$18.5 million, the per diem inmate charge would need to increase to \$110, Cavazos said.

DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.



TUTTLE'S CLICK  
Capistrano  
Ford

### MOST POPULAR

[Irvine woman killed in crash at Costa Mesa 405 off-ramp](#)

[Tustin man, 21, struck and killed riding bicycle on freeway](#)

[GOP dominance in O.C. weakens with demographic changes](#)

[Here are our picks of the 10 toughest accomplishments in sports](#)

[Robert G. Kaufman: Why Benghazi really matters](#)

Cavazos said he and Police Chief Carlos Rojas recently met with U.S. Marshals and ICE officials in Washington D.C. to request the increase. The U.S. Marshals agreed to an increase, Cavazos said. There has not been a final decision with ICE regarding increasing the fee.

Immigrant rights activists at the May 6 City Council meeting continued their fight to convince the city to end the contract with ICE that houses detainees at the jail.

About six activists spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, describing the contract as “inhumane,” while others in the crowd held signs that read “Stop the Deportations.”

Organizers with the Orange County May Day Coalition, which consists of 10 groups, spoke at the council meeting after condemning the contract at a May 1 rally commemorating International Worker’s Day.

“Our families are being separated by your policies, which must change ... We believe it is in the best interest of the community to have federal and local policies that promote family unity, said Silvia Hernandez with the Coalition and SEIU United Service Workers West.

The city, though, has maintained that it would not be economically feasible to cancel the contract with ICE. Jail operations will be reviewed in a year, officials have said.

Earlier this year, activists working with Santa Ana Collaborative for Responsible Development (SACReD) and Building Healthy Communities urged the council to add language in the city’s recently approved five-year strategic plan saying that the city would terminate the contract.

Councilwoman Michele Martinez, just before the May 6 meeting was adjourned, advised Cavazos to meet with the activists, who have been asking city officials for a jail profitability report.

“This is a sensitive issue. It’s hurting our communities,” Martinez said. “We have 100 employees or so within our jail system. We can’t just tomorrow close it down. That would not be the prudent thing to do, but we need to take the steps necessary and we need to be open and transparent about that.”

In August, the Santa Ana Police Department changed its policy of honoring all ICE requests to detain unauthorized immigrants and decided to honor only requests involving serious felonies or public safety risks.

The shift came before a similar statewide law took effect in January.

*Register reporter Roxana Kopetman contributed to this report.*

**Contact the writer:** [amolina@ocregister.com](mailto:amolina@ocregister.com)

**RELATED:**

- [5 protesters arrested at Santa Ana rally against ICE jail contract](#)

THANK YOU, ORANGE COUNTY  
**FOR VOTING US #1**

You have trusted us with your homes since 1975, and we are honored that you have named us the #1 Real Estate Company in The Best of Orange County for 3 years in a row.




**MUST-SEE PHOTOS**



**Cal State Fullerton celebrates 55th annual commencement**

Safari Power Saver  
[Click to Start Flash Plug-in](#)



**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

-  **He had them at 'Hello'**
- 50 free things to do this summer**
- Lana Del Rey stunning at the Shrine**
- O.C. movie guide**