

10/01/2020 Executive Committee Meeting
Public Comment Submissions

Submissions

Tim Warden-Hertz, Directing Attorney of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 2

*Tim Warden-Hertz, Directing Attorney of the Northwest
Immigrant Rights Project*

Mr. Rogoff and Board,

Please find attached comments from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project on Sound Transit's Fare Enforcement Policy. I appreciate your consideration of these concerns for our clients and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Tim Warden-Hertz

****** See letter referred to below**

September 24, 2020

Dear members of the Sound Transit leadership and board,

Our organization, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), is a non-profit that represents immigrants who reside in the state of Washington, including immigrants who are facing deportation and who are detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, Washington. We write to urge Sound Transit to adopt a policy that removes the ticket resolution process from the court system. We urge this reform because we know that the consequences of interactions with the court system can be especially severe for immigrants, their families and communities.

Many of our clients who are placed in removal proceedings (facing deportation) are arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers outside of court houses or because they have had prior contact with the court system. ICE can use information from the court system to flag immigrants, arrest, detain and deport them. This can be true even for simple citations and infractions. A trip to court for many immigrants can mean permanent separation from their families if they encounter ICE officers while entering or leaving court. In addition, many of our clients face additional barriers to obtaining identification because of their undocumented status, which makes it scary and difficult for them to present an identification to authorities if they are asked.

The consequences for immigrants, their families and community when they have contact with the court system are disproportionately severe and could result in permanent separation. For that reason, our organization fully supports divorcing Sound Transit Fare Enforcement policies and program from the court system.

Very truly yours,



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