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**Amistad Long Island  
Black Bar Association**

# Press Release

## **Sheriff DeMarco Defends His 48 Hour Detention Policy For Undocumented Immigrants To Members Of The Bar**

**Central Islip, New York, February 27, 2017:** Suffolk County Sheriff, Vincent DeMarco met with members of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association, LI Hispanic Bar Association, Criminal Defense Bar and the legal community to discuss his recent policy change in the detention of immigrant inmates for a 48-hour period. In 2014, Sheriff DeMarco agreed not to hold immigrant inmates for 48 hours if they were wanted by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) without a warrant from an immigration judge, citing constitutional concerns. In 2016, he reversed course, stating that he would hold inmates without a judicial warrant relying upon a recent Nassau County case and opinion provided by the County Attorney's Office. In response to concerns that immigrant inmates were being detained on minor traffic violations and that ICE was conducting neighborhood sweeps, Sheriff DeMarco confirmed that his office was primarily concerned with those charged with a "serious crime" and declined to comment on ICE's current practices. However, he did acknowledge that ICE officials have been stationed in the jails since 2006, upon his invitation, and he sees no advantage to asking them to leave.

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