

NOLD LAW

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December 9, 2025

Contra Costa County
District Attorney Diana Becton
900 Ward Street
Martinez, California 94553

Re: The In Custody Death of Yolanda Ramirez

Dear District Attorney Becton,

I am reaching out on behalf of my client, Rudolfo Ramirez, and the family of 72-year-old grandmother Yolanda Ramirez. Mrs. Ramirez was violently arrested by two Brentwood Police Officers, resulting in her death. On the date of the incident, the Brentwood Police Department would not provide the Ramirez family with any information about what happened to Mrs. Ramirez. However, Mrs. Ramirez had injuries suggesting a violent arrest, including bruising on her face and cuts on her wrist, consistent with handcuffs that were not properly locked. On October 20, 2025, I spoke to the Interim Brentwood Police Chief to obtain information about what happened to Mrs. Ramirez. He would not provide any information. On October 17, 2025, I reached out to District Attorney Investigator assigned to the case, who also declined to provide the family with any information. Unable to obtain any substantive information, I hired a Private Investigator to locate and interview witnesses. In addition, Mrs. Ramirez's body was examined by a private medical examiner who discovered blunt force injuries to her face and head, in addition to a fracture on the base of her skull, consistent with witness reports.

Witnesses report the following events:

On the morning of September 26, 2025, Mrs. Ramirez (age 72) went to pick up her disabled adult brother from the home he shares with their sister. The elderly sisters got into disagreement about their brother's care and the police were summoned. Officer Aaron Peachman and a yet-to-be-identified female Brentwood Police Officer arrived. Mrs. Ramirez stood outside talking to the female Officer for several minutes, then proceeded to sit down in the passenger's side of her minivan. After a few more minutes, Mrs. Ramirez went to the other side of her car to retrieve something. When she opened the car door, the female Officer inexplicably screamed out that she was fleeing, prompting Officer Peachman to run out of the house, where he had been speaking to the sister.

No commands were provided, but both Officers violently grabbed Mrs. Ramirez and handcuffed her, as she screamed out in pain in front of almost a dozen shocked onlookers. The Officers walked her down the street, forced her to her knees while handcuffed, cursed at her, and pushed her towards the patrol car. She loudly protested her injuries and treatment. As they neared the patrol car, Mrs. Ramirez told the Officers she could get in the car by herself, but they

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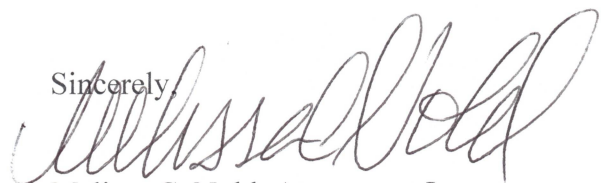
continued to push her. Witnesses observed Officer Peachman slamming Mrs. Ramirez's head against the car window and after that nobody heard another sound coming from her. The female officer was directed to go to the other side of the car to drag Mrs. Ramirez's body into the car. The female officer slammed the door violently. Mrs. Ramirez was left in the back seat of the car, with witnesses estimating she was left alone for 25-40 minutes before anyone checked on her.

Officer Peachman returned to the patrol car and looked at Mrs. Ramirez, then proceeded to go back and speak to the six officers who had arrived. Then, all of the officers went back to look at Mrs. Ramirez. None of the officers attempted to provide any emergency care or first aid. Shortly after, a tow truck arrived to remove Mrs. Ramirez's car and an ambulance arrived. Multiple EMT's and Officers had to carry Mrs. Ramirez onto a gurney, because she was unconscious and covered in vomit. Officer did not tell the EMT's that Mrs. Ramirez had a head injury and instead claimed that she had a sudden medical emergency after being placed in a patrol car. Mrs. Ramirez was transported to Kaiser, but the staff was not notified that she had a head injury. The tow receipt stated that Mrs. Ramirez was under arrest for resisting arrest. After she taken to the ER, Officers dropped off a form indicating Mrs. Ramirez's arrest was downgraded to a detention. Mrs. Ramirez was transported to John Muir for emergency brain surgery, but the extent of her brain injury was too severe, and she was ultimately removed from life support, after her organs could be donated.

On November 12, 2025, the Ramirez family attended a Brentwood City Council meeting, demanding a full and proper investigation. At that time, nearly six weeks later, none of the witnesses had been interviewed by anyone other than the family's Private Investigator. The following day, on November 13, 2025, six Brentwood Police Officers swarmed the neighborhood where Mrs. Ramirez was injured, which was the first time anyone sought to speak to the witnesses. The Officers asked the witnesses leading questions and intimidated them. Nobody from the District Attorney's Office reached out to the eleven (11) eyewitnesses, many who have not been interviewed to date.

No state or government agency was planning to interview the witnesses until the media and family showed up to demand it, six weeks later. This community elder spent three decades serving the community as a Contra Costa County employee. She deserved to be protected, not killed and her unlawful death hidden, without a Coroner's Inquest. This is egregious, shocking and unacceptable. The Ramirez family strongly urges you to file criminal charges for the death of Mrs. Ramirez and immediately reassign the case to an investigator who will immediately interview the multiple eyewitnesses who saw Mrs. Ramirez abused in broad daylight. The family is requesting an in-person meeting with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Melissa C. Nold, Attorney at Law