

## **Republican Perspective**

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### **Who Killed Kate Steinle?**

Illegal immigrant Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez confessed in a jailhouse interview with ABC-7 that he had murdered Kate Steinle on San Francisco's Pier 14. But who was really responsible for this killing?

The President of the Republican Club of Rossmoor was surprised to receive an inquiry from KRON-4, asking if RCR had a position on whether federal and local immigration policy played a part in the murder. RCR's response was that responsibility for Steinle's murder is shared.

Obviously, because of his confession, illegal immigrant Lopez-Sanchez is responsible. In the interview, he reportedly also said that he came to San Francisco specifically because it is a sanctuary city. He has seven felony convictions and has been deported five times.

Earlier this year, Lopez-Sanchez was in custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE turned him over to San Francisco for local prosecution for a drug offense. ICE asked for a detainer---in effect, to be notified if Lopez-Sanchez was to be released. Because San Francisco is a sanctuary city, the sheriff's department ignored the detainer request and released Lopez-Sanchez when his local drug case was dismissed.

The Illegal Immigrant Reform Act of 1996 bans local governments from establishing sanctuary cities and refusing to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The federal government does not enforce this provision. Unless they were ignorant that San Francisco is a sanctuary city, the ICE agents who turned Lopez-Sanchez over to the sheriff must have known that the detainer would be ignored.

RCR believes that Lopez-Sanchez bears primary responsibility, since he has publicly confessed to the crime. But he had accomplices. San Francisco government (particularly the sheriff) also bears responsibility, for ignoring the ICE detainer and instead releasing Lopez-Sanchez. The federal government also bears responsibility for failing to enforce the 1996 law, failing to adequately control the border, and foolishly turning Lopez-Sanchez over to an uncooperative municipality.

The federal government's role is particularly egregious and hypocritical. When the State of Arizona passed a law (SB 1070) requiring local law officers to determine immigration status and turn over illegals to ICE, the administration

sued Arizona. Not on the basis that Arizona's law was at conflict with federal law (which it was not), but on the basis that immigration enforcement was "exclusively vested in the federal government." Now compare that stance with the administration's universal failure to enforce its own law requiring local officials to cooperate with ICE. The administration attacks localities that try to enforce the law and ignores those that flout the same law. The stark hypocrisy is breathtaking.

So who killed Kate Steinle? Well, Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez did. But he couldn't have done it alone. He had the cooperation of the sanctuary city of San Francisco and the complicity of the federal government which fails to control the border and to enforce the 1996 statute requiring local authorities to cooperate with ICE.