



JB Pritzker, Governor
Hina Mahmood, Executive Director

Dear Honorable State's Attorneys and Superintendents:

On behalf of the Illinois Accountability Commission (IAC), we submit this letter and accompanying report documenting the commission's investigation into Operation Midway Blitz. Investigators reviewed over 100 hours of body worn camera footage, surveillance video, and bystander recordings. Attorneys analyzed sworn declarations filed in federal court, federal agents' text messages, official incident reports and records, and the public statements of federal officials that, in many cases, contradicted the available evidence. Across the investigations, Commission lawyers and investigators conducted over 60 witness interviews with community members, bystanders, and subject-matter experts in use of force, chemical weapons, immigration enforcement, civil rights law, and health care. The evidence the commission collected is described in detail in the attached Report of the Commission.

According to our findings, from September through December of 2025, the federal government deployed hundreds of federal agents to the Chicago area, purportedly to conduct immigration enforcement. The federal government claimed that it was targeting "the worst of the worst." On the ground, however, federal immigration officers did not use a target list of violent criminals they knew were subject to deportation. Instead, they conducted random stops of community members based on their race or occupation. The officers used violence during detentions and arrests, and they punished people's lawful speech and assembly if they opposed these tactics.

The federal agencies that employ these officers have abdicated their responsibility to use discipline to ensure the agents conform to policies that prohibit these unlawful practices, instead lying to excuse their actions. Additionally, the current U.S. Department of Justice has refused to investigate their officers and hold them accountable.

Given the scope and scale of the federal operation, the Commission could not collect evidence for every single event where people were harmed by federal immigration agents. Additionally, the Commission could not compel witnesses to testify or to share information. Despite these limitations, the evidence the Commission collected shows a clear pattern of unjustified violence by immigration enforcement agents against members of the public. We now turn this information over to you as law enforcement agencies because you have the power to investigate and prosecute crimes in our state.

For example, unlike the Commission, law enforcement agencies can require third parties to turn over evidence to further investigations. Some third parties may be able to provide evidence that helps identify federal immigration officers who otherwise concealed their identities. Law enforcement can also seek evidence from medical providers and medical examiners, gather body worn camera video from local law enforcement, and compel the provision of video from others. The investigation of federal agents' criminal conduct is similar in many ways to the investigation of complex state officer-involved shootings. See Policy Memo, Officer Involved Shootings, [Policy Memo | Cook County State's Attorney](#).

We accordingly are providing information from our investigations to support any current or future investigation and prosecution of the federal officers. As former federal prosecutors, we believe the actions undertaken during Operation Midway Blitz represent a dangerous departure from how federal agents should conduct themselves. They harmed many Illinoisans with impunity. With a lack of accountability at the federal level, we hope this information we are sharing with you will help ensure they are held accountable.

Sincerely,

Hon. Rubén Castillo

Chair, Illinois Accountability Commission

Patricia Brown Holmes

Vice Chair, Illinois Accountability Commission