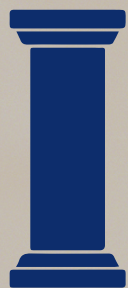




State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Human Rights



ILLINOIS ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

EAST SIDE INVESTIGATION BRIEF April 2026



INVESTIGATION BRIEF

East Side Vehicle Pursuit, Ramming, and Neighborhood Gassing

Date: October 14, 2025

Location: East Side, Chicago, IL

Estimated Number of Agents Involved: 51

Categorization: Roving Patrol, Kavanaugh Stop, Vehicle Pursuit, Vehicle Ramming, Unreasonable Seizure, Use of Excessive Force, Materially Inaccurate Official Report

At approximately 10:00 AM on October 14, 2025, Border Patrol agents Benito Nuñez, Carlos Chavira, and Jesus Guillen drove near Chicago's East Side neighborhood on a roving patrol.ⁱ They were masked, fully armed, and dressed in green tactical uniforms with ballistic body armor. They drove an unmarked rental car searching secretly for criminal activity when they observed two men sitting in a parked car outside of a corner store. The men were later identified as Luis Gerardo Pierla-Ramirez and Yonder Enrique Tenefe-Perez. The agents reported that the men were “suspicious” because the store appeared to be closed, but the store had been open since early that morning.ⁱⁱ The agents approached the men in what they called a “consensual encounter” and stopped their vehicle in front of them.ⁱⁱⁱ The agents then reported that the men drove toward them and hit their vehicle doors, pinning them against the door frames. One agent reported hearing “metal and plastic bending and scraping along” the driver-side door, and two agents claimed they were hit.^{iv} The agents did not record this initial encounter with their body-worn cameras. The agents’ commander would later contradict their written report of the incident when he told the public that the agents “dodged being hit” (Image 1)^v ; photographs of the vehicle’s doors show only minimal damage (Image 2).^{vi}

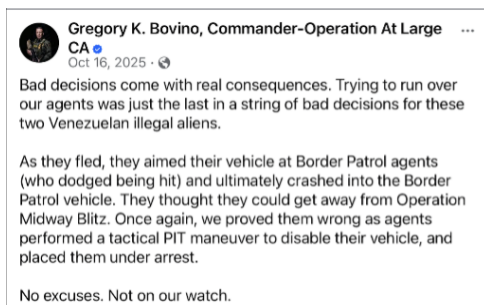


Image 1: Bovino writes that agents dodged from being hit.

Image 2

The agents then pursued the men for alleged assault through residential streets without emergency lights or sirens. The agents reached speeds of over 70 mph^{vii} as their wheels screeched during sharp turns and bystanders honked, whistled, and yelled at the passing vehicles.^{viii} The high-speed, dangerous pursuit lasted at least 18 minutes and continued even after the agents’ supervisor ordered them to stop multiple times.^{ix} The supervisor issued the orders to stop pursuing because a helicopter was tracking the men’s movements through the neighborhood. The agents also tried repeatedly to ram the men’s car, despite not being trained or certified in the risky maneuver.^x Hearing that the agents had not stopped the pursuit, the agents’ supervisor dialed one of the agents directly but the agent ignored the call.^{xi} About 30 seconds later, at approximately 10:36 AM, the agents rammed their vehicle into the men’s car at about 51mph, sending the men spinning into a parked car.^{xii}



Image 3^{xiii}: Screenshot showing over 70 MPH (71 MPH).



Image 4^{xiv}: The ramming sent the men spinning toward another car.

The men fled on foot and were apprehended by the agents. The men were citizens of Venezuela, had prior orders of deportation but no criminal history. One of the men was apprehended at a nearby Walgreens store. The agent giving chase entered the store and pointed his firearm at a group of bystanders who were yelling at the agent to leave.^{xv} The agent wrote in his report that the bystanders were “charging at him,”^{xvi} but his body-worn camera recording showed that he had his gun raised even as bystanders kept their distance.^{xvii}



Image 5^{xviii}: Agent points firearm at bystanders who are at least 4-5 aisles away.

A separate agent arrested a 19-year-old man, a U.S. citizen, who was exiting the Walgreens.^{xix} About 15 minutes after the arrest, the arresting agent told a supervisor that he had arrested the man for “nothing,” but then alleged that the man had tackled him.^{xx} A bystander’s video disproves the agent’s version of events (Image 6).^{xxi} The man was held for hours, despite agents’ knowledge that he had not assaulted the agent.^{xxii} The man was never charged with any crimes related to this arrest.



Image 6 ^{xxiii}: An agent arrests a man leaving a Walgreens.

Meanwhile, back at the scene of the crash, a crowd of residents and protesters gathered and began confronting the agents over the dangerous pursuit. The crowd was mostly peaceful and remained at the scene for almost two hours as agents waited for tow trucks to arrive (Image 7). The crowd grew to about 150 people, and about 51 federal agents responded from various tactical units. Chicago Police Department (CPD) officers also arrived on the scene following a 911 call by one of the federal agents about the crash and the developing crowd.



Image 7 ^{xxiv}: Agents on the scene of the ramming waited for tow trucks to arrive for nearly two hours.



Image 8^{xxv}: Agents deploy gas to move a vehicle through a crowded street.

Agents arrested three U.S. citizens during the protest for alleged assault but released them the same day. At about 11:51 AM, one male U.S. citizen was arrested after agents deployed tear gas when they attempted to move an agent's vehicle through a crowded street into the police perimeter (Image 8). During the man's arrest, agents threw him to the ground, and one agent pressed his knee on the man's face to pin him while other agents handcuffed him (Image 9).^{xxvi} Later, at about 12:25 PM, agents arrested a second man and a teenager after individuals in the crowd threw objects toward the agents.^{xxvii} After multiple agents held the man down on the ground for handcuffing, agents yelled at the man to stop resisting, but the man was not moving or attempting to escape (Image 10).^{xxviii} After the man complained multiple times of not being able to breathe, the arresting agent simply responded with "You aren't breathing 'cause you're talking," and "You're fine, relax."^{xxix}



Image 9^{xxx}: An agent presses his knee on a man's face during arrest.



Image 10^{xxx}: An agent arrests a man who complained that he could not breathe when agents took him to the ground.

Federal agents then devised an exit strategy involving the use of large amounts of chemical gas. CPD officers had agreed to remain on the scene while the federal agents drove away, but federal agents did not notify CPD officers about the plan to use tear gas.^{xxxii} The federal agents proceeded with their plan, even though CPD officers had requested that federal agents not use tear gas (Image 11), deploying a barrage of tear gas at residents, protesters, journalists, and CPD officers alike (Image 12).^{xxxiii} Plumes of noxious gas filled the air around the neighborhood as agents left the scene.^{xxxiv}



Image 11: Chicago Police Department Officers^{xxxv}



Image 12^{xxxvi}: Agent throws a gas canister into the crowd as other agents drive away.



Image 13 Federal agents deploy smoke bombs at 105th & Ave N on Oct. 14, 2025^{xxxvii}



Image 14 Scene from standoff at 105th and Ave. N on Oct. 14, 2025^{xxxviii}

Federal agents and their supervisors who were present in the East Side neighborhood concealed key details from their reports to avoid scrutiny as immigration officials publicly defended and praised their actions. In their incident report, the federal agents failed to report the high-speed pursuit through residential streets without emergency lights or sirens and reported that there was no video of a pursuit. The supervisor who ordered the agents to stop the pursuit also failed to report that the agents disobeyed his orders, writing instead that the agents “were unable to pursue” because they lacked emergency equipment (Image 15).^{xxxix} Other agents deployed gas canisters at protesters and residents who were not violent and, in some cases, were walking away.

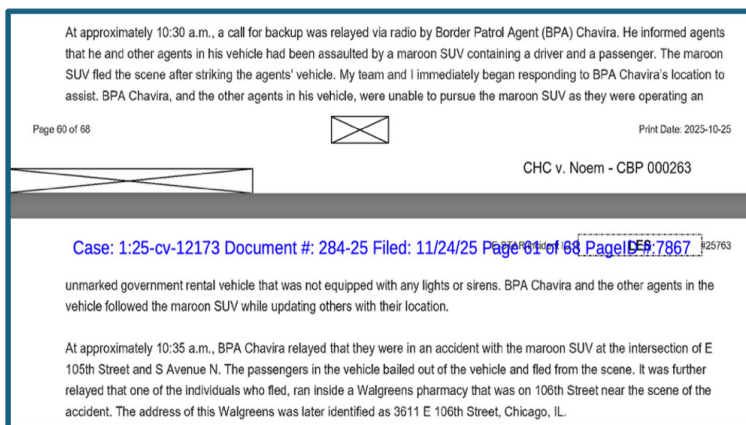


Image 15^{xi}: Supervisor writes that agents did not pursue the men because they lacked emergency equipment.

DHS officials also issued misleading statements about the agents' conduct in the East Side neighborhood. The day after the incident, DHS issued a press release claiming that Border Patrol agents used an “authorized precision immobilization technique (PIT) maneuver,” without mentioning that the agents had been told to stop their pursuit and that the driver was not even trained to use the deadly technique (Image 16).^{xli}



Image 16^{xlii}: DHS defends the agents stating they used an authorized PIT maneuver.

Commission Determination of Misconduct

Based on the information it has gathered, the Commission has determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that federal agents should be formally investigated for possible violations of agency policy, state and federal criminal laws, and individuals' constitutional rights. In particular, the following instances of misconduct should be investigated further:

- Agents likely converted their stated "consensual encounter" into a temporary stop when they blocked the men's car by stopping directly in front of them in a small parking lot. The three agents also exited suddenly wearing masks and body armor in an intimidating show of force that likely demonstrated an intent to restrain. As a temporary stop, the agents needed at least reasonable suspicion that the men were unlawfully present in the United States based on particularized facts and not factors that would describe a very large category of presumably innocent people. Here, the agents reported only that the men were suspicious because they sat in a parked car outside of a corner market that appeared closed. The agents needed more than a hunch that the men were illegally present in the United States and could not rely on their apparent race or ethnicity alone.
- Agents endangered the public by recklessly chasing a vehicle at high speeds without emergency lights and sirens, in violation of agency policy.
- Agents kept a U.S. citizen in custody for hours despite knowing that he was uninvolved in the incident; the arresting agent lied to his supervisor that the man had tackled him.
- Agents aggressively detained three U.S. citizens and used unreasonable force by deploying excessive amounts of chemical gas against non-violent residents, protesters, journalists, and officers.
- Agents and their supervisors concealed and misrepresented key facts regarding the vehicle pursuit in their incident report indicating that agents may have submitted materially inaccurate official reports. DHS misled the public by issuing statements in its press release that were contradicted by the agents and other evidence.

Endnotes

- i CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25 (N.D.III. Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.lovvy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>.
- ii CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25 (N.D.III. Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.lovvy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>.
- iii CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25 (N.D.III. Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.lovvy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>.
- iv CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25 (N.D.III. Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.lovvy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>.
- v Gregory K. Bovino (Commander-Operation at Large CA) Facebook (Oct. 16, 2025) (Note: this page has since been removed but was previously available at: <https://www.facebook.com/CommanderOpAtLargeCA>)
- vi (Image to the left): CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1139_D01A2115V at 12:01:35, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>; (Image to the right): CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1128_D01A83325 at 12:50:23, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>
- vii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-24_X60A79913 at 11:17:38, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- viii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1121_X60A76624 at 11:19:23-11:35:22; CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-24_X60A79913 at 11:17:22-11:35:22, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- ix CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-24_X60A79913 at 11:17:22-11:35:22; CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1128_D01A83325 at 11:32:03-11:32:37; CBP Axon BWC 2025-10-14-1119_D01D08980 at 11:32:00-11:32:33, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- x CBP Axon BWC 2025-10-14-1119_D01D08980 at 11:19:59, 11:20:37, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xi CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14-1119_D01D08980 at 1:34:58-11:35:25, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xii CBP Axon BWC 2025-10-14-1119_D01D08980 at 11:34:58-11:35:25, available at <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xiii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-24_X60A79913 at 11:17:38, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xiv Michelle Gallardo and Tre Ward, Agents tackle US citizen after East Side operation leads to crash, spills into Walgreens: VIDEO, ABC7 Chicago, (October 14, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-crash-massive-law-enforcement-presence-south-avenue-east-side-live/18005825/>
- xv CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_X60A79913 at 11:38:00-11:38:17, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xvi BP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25, <https://www.lovvy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>
- xvii CBP, Body Worn Camera, Axon 2025-10-14_X60A79913 at 11:38:00-11:38:17, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xviii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_X60A79913 at 11:38:00-11:38:17, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xix CNN [CNN]. (2025, Oct 16). ICE detains 19 year old outside Walgreens at 0:00-0:07, [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJF6TGg-e-A&t=21s>.
- xx CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1128_D01A83325 at 11:53:20-11:53:55, available at: <https://www.lovvy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxi Fox 9 [Fox 9]. (2025, Oct. 23) Border Patrol agents tackled a US citizen outside a Walgreens on Chicago's East Side on the morning of Tuesday, October 14... at 0:54-1:36 [Video]. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/fox9kmsp/videos/border-patrol-agents-tackled-a-us-citizen-outside-a-walgreens-on-chicagos-east-s/3757843604350384/>.
- xxii Michelle Gallardo and Tre Ward, Agents tackle US citizen after East Side operation leads to crash, spills into Walgreens: VIDEO, ABC7 Chicago, (October 14, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-crash-massive-law-enforcement-presence-south-avenue-east-side-live/18005825/>
- xxiii Fox 9 [Fox 9]. (2025, Oct. 23) Border Patrol agents tackled a US citizen outside a Walgreens on Chicago's East Side on the morning of Tuesday, October 14... at 0:54-1:36 [Video]. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/fox9kmsp/videos/border-patrol-agents-tackled-a-us-citizen-outside-a-walgreens-on-chicagos-east-s/3757843604350384/>.

- xxiv Matthew Kaplan for Unraveled. <https://unraveledpress.com/border-patrol-agents-ignored-orders-to-end-car-chase-before-gassing-chicago-neighborhood/>.
- xxv Matthew Kaplan for Block Club Chicago. <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/15/southeast-siders-unite-to-fight-ice-after-feds-cause-crash-teargas-their-neighborhood/>
- xxvi CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1156_D01A2797W at 12:51:27-12:51:47, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxvii Anthony Vazquez from Chicago Sun-Times. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/10/14/crash-involving-immigration-agents-in-east-side-leads-to-tear-gas-detentions>.
- xxviii CBP Axon BWC 2025-10-14_ X60A76624 at 13:26:00-13:26:33, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxix CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_ X60A76624 at 13:26:00-13:26:33, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxx CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1156_D01A2797W at 12:51:27-12:51:47, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxi CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_ X60A76624 at 13:26:00-13:26:33, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1143_D01A4986A at 12:57:19-12:58:42, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxiii CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1143_D01A4986A at 13:38:17-13:38:20, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxiv CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1151_D01A49557 at 13:39:32-13:39:40, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxv CBP, Axon BWC 2025-10-14_1143_D01A4986A at 13:38:17-13:38:20, available at: <https://www.loevy.com/class-actions/government-accountability/chc-v-noem/>.
- xxxvi Matthew Kaplan from Block Club Chicago. <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/12/30/chicago-under-siege-how-operation-midway-blitz-changed-our-city/>.
- xxxvii Source: Matthew Kaplan/Block Club Chicago
- xxxviii Source: Matthew Kaplan/Block Club Chicago
- xxxix CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25, <https://www.loevy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>
- xl CBP, E-STAR Incident Report #25763, Chicago Headline Club v. Noem, Doc. 284-25, <https://www.loevy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/284-25-ESTAR-Incident-Report-10.14.2025.pdf>
- xli U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., DHS Sets the Record Straight on Vehicle-Ramming Attack and 'Kidnapping' Lie About American Teenager Who Assaulted Law Enforcement, (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/15/dhs-sets-record-straight-vehicle-ramming-attack-and-kidnapping-lie-about-american>.
- xlii U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., DHS Sets the Record Straight on Vehicle-Ramming Attack and 'Kidnapping' Lie About American Teenager Who Assaulted Law Enforcement (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/15/dhs-sets-record-straight-vehicle-ramming-attack-and-kidnapping-lie-about-american>.

