



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Human Rights



# ILLINOIS ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

## GONZÁLEZ SHOOTING INVESTIGATION BRIEF

April 2026





# INVESTIGATION BRIEF

## Fatal Shooting of Silverio Villegas González

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Location:** Franklin Park, Chicago, Illinois

**Estimated Number of Agents Involved:** 2 ICE agents

**Categorization:** Use of deadly force; failure to use safe tactics

# INTRODUCTION

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On September 12, 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents shot and killed 38-year-old [Silverio Villegas González](#) during a traffic stop in Franklin Park. Villegas González was a Mexican national who had been in the United States since 2007.<sup>i</sup> At the time of the shooting, Villegas González was on his way to work, where he served 11-hour shifts in the kitchen of a diner.<sup>ii</sup> He had just dropped off his seven-year-old son at elementary school and his three-year-old son at day care.<sup>iii</sup> Villegas González is survived by his children and his partner of roughly two years; his body was repatriated to Michoacán, Mexico, where Villegas González was mourned by additional family and community members.<sup>iv</sup> He has variously been described by his family and coworkers as family-oriented, dependable, reserved, and soft-spoken.<sup>v</sup> The account below of his fatal shooting is largely based on surveillance footage from nearby businesses, bystander videos, and the body-worn camera footage of a responding Franklin Park police officer. Although a 2025 ICE policy requires agents to activate body-worn cameras during an enforcement action, the agents involved reportedly were not wearing body-worn cameras at the time of the incident.<sup>vi</sup>



Image 1 Surveillance footage from Happy Nails, New York Times <sup>vii</sup>

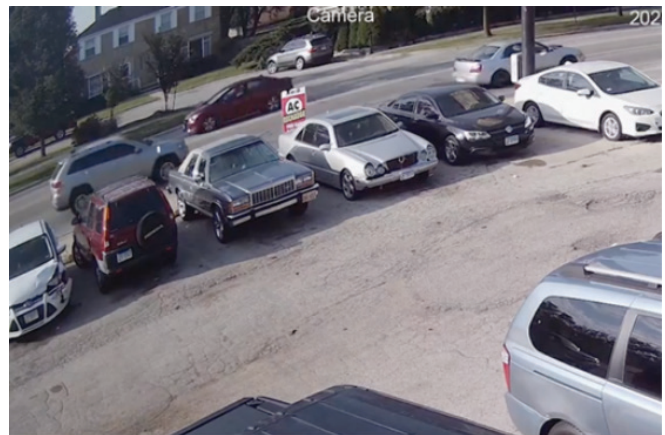


Image 2 Surveillance footage from Valles Tires Shop, New York Times <sup>viii</sup>

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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Villegas González was driving to work in Chicago on September 12 when, shortly before 9:00 AM, he was stopped by two ICE agents in an unmarked vehicle.<sup>ix</sup> The agents followed Villegas González for a short period before turning on their vehicle's emergency lights. In response to the emergency lights, Villegas González pulled over into the right-most lane of traffic on Grand Avenue. The agents pulled over in front of Villegas González's car, blocking the car's path forward and also partially blocking a second lane of traffic.

Two armed ICE agents in protective vests exited their vehicle and walked up to Villegas González's car. One agent approached from the passenger side; the other approached Villegas González at his driver's side window. [Surveillance video](#) from the area shows the agents leaning on the car window frames, appearing to talk to Villegas González. The agent at the passenger side then reached into window.



Image 3 Screenshots of Surveillance footage from Happy Nails/NY Times

About eight seconds after initially coming to a stop, Villegas González began to drive his car in reverse.<sup>x</sup> Both agents kept their hands on the car's window frames, until the agent on the passenger side stepped back from the car and drew a firearm. Villegas González reversed approximately fifty feet<sup>xi</sup> before then driving his car forward, away from the agents and into an open lane of traffic on Grand Avenue. Surveillance video shows that the agent on the passenger side ran after the car, pointing his firearm at the rear of the car and then lowering it; no video footage is available of the agent on the driver's side.

Roughly six seconds after Villegas González drove forward, separate surveillance footage captures the sound of two gunshots. After the shots, Villegas González's car continued moving forward for about 170 feet until, about three seconds later, it crashed into the undercarriage of a parked delivery truck.<sup>xii</sup> In a later statement to Franklin Park police about the incident, the truck driver described the traffic stop, including seeing Villegas González reverse his car and drive around the agents' vehicle before crashing.<sup>xiii</sup> The truck driver said he could hear one gunshot and assumed Villegas González had been shot prior to the crash. The available evidence does not establish which of the two agents shot and killed Villegas González, though video footage and later DHS statements about the incident indicate that it was the agent on the vehicle's driver's side.

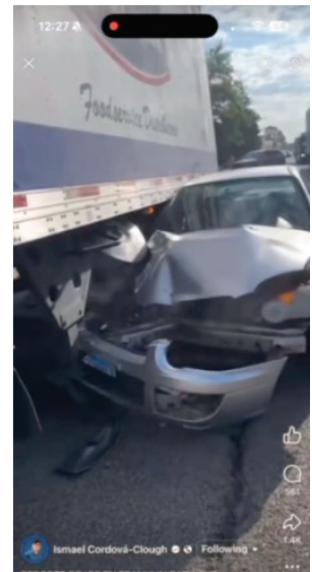


Image 4 Video Posted by Ismael Cordova-Clough

The two agents approached Villegas González's car after it crashed, ultimately breaking the car window to pull Villegas González out. The agents yelled for someone to call 911. When paramedics arrived, they treated Villegas González at the incident scene before transporting him to the hospital. He was pronounced dead at 9:48 a.m. Central Time, within an hour of the shooting.<sup>xiv</sup> A Cook County Medical Examiner's report concludes that Villegas González was fatally shot at close range, with one bullet entering through the back of his neck and remaining in his chest cavity and another bullet grazing two of his fingers.<sup>xv</sup>

Franklin Park Police officers, along with other federal agents, responded to the scene of the shooting. Body-worn camera video from one responding Franklin Park officer captures several statements from the two ICE agents involved in the incident. As shown on the [video](#), one of the agents told the police officer that Villegas González had "tried to run us over." The other agent, who can be seen on video with a tear in his pant leg, stated that he had been "dragged a little bit" during the incident. The agents pointed out a left knee injury, elbow injury, and some lacerations to his hands, but one agent described the injuries as "nothing major."



Image 5 Screenshot of Franklin Park Police BWC, posted by Chicago Sun-Times, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRI7CYmcAmA>

Other video footage from that morning shows that the agents were aware Villegas González had children in school nearby, including one at daycare roughly 2.5 blocks away from the scene of the shooting. News media review and reporting on additional video reports that one agent commented, “We know [ Villegas González has] got one minor at a day care down here that’s on the left, I don’t know, and then one at [an elementary school] over here.”<sup>xvi</sup>

DHS issued several statements in the days after the incident that purported to justify the agents’ conduct and suggested Villegas González was criminally culpable. On the day of Villegas González’s death, for instance, DHS issued a press release stating that Villegas González had “refused to follow law enforcements [sic] commands and drove his car at law enforcement officers.”<sup>xvii</sup> The press release added, “One of the ICE officers was hit by the car and dragged a significant distance. Fearing for his own life, the officer fired his weapon.” The press release further characterized the incident as occurring during an enforcement operation against “a criminal illegal alien with a history of reckless driving.” (Between 2010 and 2019, Villegas González was cited for four traffic violations; only one was a moving violation.<sup>xviii</sup>) Four days later, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem posted on social media: “This week, a brave [ICE] officer was dragged many yards by a car after a criminal illegal alien resisted arrest. His life was put at risk and he sustained serious injuries.”<sup>xix</sup> And in another press release issued a week after the incident, DHS again referred to Villegas González as “a criminal illegal alien” and claimed he had “resisted arrest, attempted to flee the scene and dragged [an ICE] officer a significant distance.”<sup>xx</sup> The last press release reiterated DHS’s claim that Villegas González “drove his car at law enforcement officers” and that the officer who killed him had done so out of “fear[] for his own life and broader public safety.” It further suggested that the shooting officer had received hospital treatment for “multiple injuries” sustained during the incident.

Those close to Villegas González learned of his death soon after the shooting. His partner, for instance, learned of his passing that morning. When Villegas González failed to make his usual check-in phone call after taking his children to school, his partner contacted Villegas González’s employer and learned that he had not come to work. She then discovered from a social media post (which included video of the incident) that Villegas González had been killed. She was subsequently hospitalized for three days for the stress and anxiety resulting from Villegas González’s death. While taking bereavement leave, at her employer’s suggestion, she was terminated from her employment.<sup>xxi</sup>

## COMMISSION DETERMINATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

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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:

- Federal agents shot and killed Villegas González without apparent justification as he drove away from them. The evidence available to the Commission—including surveillance and body-worn camera video, as well as the subject and witness statements captured on those videos—suggests that the use of deadly force against Villegas González may not have been justified or objectively reasonable. At the time of the shooting, the agents had purportedly stopped Villegas González, who was the only occupant of his vehicle, as part of a targeted civil immigration enforcement action. Villegas González was not suspected of any violent crime, and there is no indication that the agents thought he was armed. He did not exit his vehicle during the traffic stop. Instead, Villegas González twice drove away from the agents: first by reversing his vehicle away from the agents and their vehicle; second by driving his vehicle forward into an open lane of traffic. In both instances, the agents appeared to stay on the sides of the vehicle rather than in its path of travel. There is no suggestion that Villegas González was driving erratically. Furthermore, the evidence available to the Commission does not show whether—or how—the agent by the driver's side door may have been hit, caught, or dragged by Villegas González's vehicle, as DHS has claimed in its press releases. But statements captured on body-worn camera show that the agent considered any resulting injuries to be "nothing major."
- Federal agents employed tactics during and following the traffic stop that increased the risk of physical harm. The evidence available to the Commission indicates that several of the agents' own actions likely escalated the danger of the encounter with Villegas González. The agents parked their vehicle immediately in front of Villegas González's vehicle, rather than a vehicle's length or more behind it. They approached Villegas González's vehicle and placed their hands on the car window frames without ensuring that the vehicle was turned off or disabled. At least one agent reached into the vehicle through the open window, placing himself in a position of vulnerability if the

vehicle began to move. When Villegas González reversed away from the agents, the agents again appear to place themselves in a vulnerable position by moving alongside the vehicle, with at least one of the agents keeping his hands on the window frame for some period of time as it began to move backward. The agents did not avail themselves of the option to simply step away from the vehicle. And by remaining by the side of the vehicle both as it reversed and drove forward, the agent at the driver's side put himself in the path of oncoming traffic, risking injury to himself or to those driving by.

## Endnotes

- i Lizbeth Diaz and Renee Hickman, *Chicago ICE Crackdown's first casualty, a father of two, had built a quiet life in the US*, Reuters (Oct. 11, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/chicago-ice-crackdowns-first-casualty-father-two-had-built-quiet-life-us-2025-10-11/>
- ii *Id.*
- iii Alma Campos, *A Tragic Homecoming For Man Killed By ICE Agents In Franklin Park*, Block Club Chicago (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/20/a-tragic-homecoming/>.
- iv *Id.*
- v *Id.*; Lizbeth Diaz and Renee Hickman, *Chicago ICE Crackdown's first casualty, a father of two, had built a quiet life in the US*, Reuters (Oct. 11, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/chicago-ice-crackdowns-first-casualty-father-two-had-built-quiet-life-us-2025-10-11/>
- vi Frank Main and Tom Schuba, *ICE Agents Didn't Have Body Cams During Deadly Shooting of Silverio Villegas González Outside Chicago*, Chicago Sun-Times (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/the-watchdogs/2025/09/16/ice-body-cameras-deadly-shooting-silverio-villegas-gonzalez-chicago>
- vii Bora Erden et. al., *How an Attempted ICE Arrest Turned Deadly*, NY Times (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/09/23/us/ice-shooting-chicago-video.html>.
- viii *Id.*
- ix *Id.*
- x *Id.*
- xi *Id.*
- xii *Id.*; see also Steve Held et. al., *What Happened to Silverio Villegas González*, Unraveled Press (Sept. 13, 2025), <https://unraveledpress.com/what-happened-to-silverio-villegas-gonzalez/>.
- xiii Chicago Sun-Times, *ICE Officer Said His Injuries Were 'Nothing Major' After Deadly Shooting Near Chicago, Video Shows*, at 1:15 (YouTube, Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRI7CYmcAmA>.
- xiv Cook County, Illinois, "Medical Examiner Case Archive," <https://datacatalog.cookcountyil.gov/w/cjeq-bs86/qzb8-g2nd?cur=qLzBW7hBgFw>.
- xv Tom Schuba and Sophie Sherry, *Silverio Villegas González, Killed by ICE Agent in Suburban Chicago, Had Cocaine in System, Autopsy Shows*, Chicago Sun-Times (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/the-watchdogs/2025/11/17/silverio-villegas-gonzalez-ice-dhs-trump-midway-blitz-shooting-homicide-franklin-park-chicago>.
- xvi Molly DeVore, *ICE Killed A Man Outside Chicago Last Year: Little Has Been Done to Investigate*, Block Club Chicago (March 23, 2026), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2026/03/23/ice-killed-a-man-outside-chicago-last-year-little-has-been-done-to-investigate/>
- xvii Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, "DHS Statement on ICE Officer Seriously Injured in Line of Duty and Shooting in Chicago During Traffic Stop (Sep. 12, 2025) <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/12/dhs-statement-ice-officer-seriously-injured-line-duty-and-shooting-chicago-during>.
- xviii Sara Tenenbaum and Dave Savini, *Deadly Minneapolis ICE Shooting Echoes Franklin Park, Marimar Martinez Shootings During Operation Midway Blitz*, CBS News (Jan. 7, 2026) <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/minneapolis-ice-shooting-franklin-park-marimar-martinez-operation-midway-blitz/>; Lizbeth Diaz and Renee Hickman, *Chicago ICE Crackdown's First Casualty, A Father of Two, Had Built A Quiet Life in the US*, Reuters (Oct. 11, 2025) <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/chicago-ice-crackdowns-first-casualty-father-two-had-built-quiet-life-us-2025-10-11/>.
- xix Kristi Noem (@EnvoyNoem), X (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://x.com/EnvoyNoem/status/1967960074212483503>.
- xx Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, "DHS Sets the Record Straight on Gross Smears Against ICE Officer Who Was Seriously Injured in Line of Duty and Shooting in Chicago During Traffic Stop," Sept. 19, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/19/dhs-sets-record-straight-gross-smears-against-ice-officer-who-was-seriously-injured>.
- xxi Alma Campos, *A Tragic Homecoming For Man Killed By ICE Agents In Franklin Park*, Block Club Chicago (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/20/a-tragic-homecoming/>.



