



State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Human Rights



ILLINOIS ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

LOGAN SQUARE INVESTIGATION BRIEF

April 2026



INVESTIGATION BRIEF

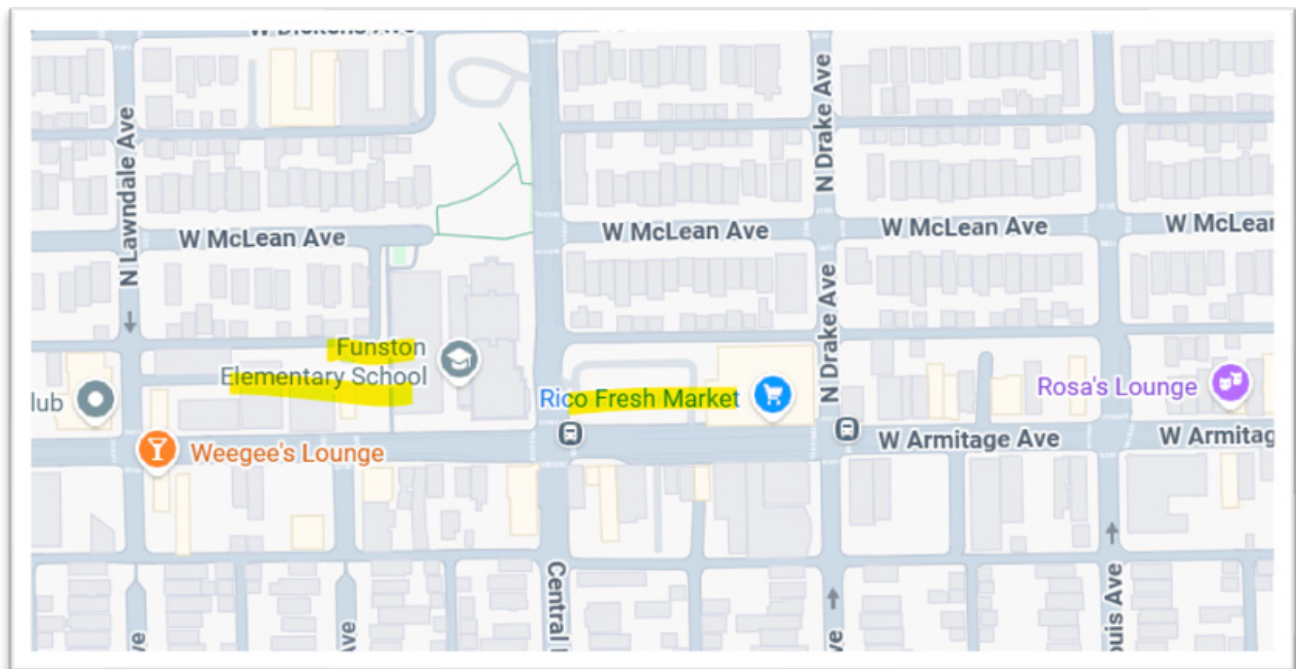
Gassing and Baton Strikes in Logan Square

Date: October 3, 2025

Location: Logan Square (3600 Block of W Armitage Ave)

Estimated Number of Agents Involved: At least 2

Categorization: Use of force; sensitive locations



INTRODUCTION

Around noon on October 3, 2025, Border Patrol agents apprehended several subjects on immigration-related violations in Cicero and were headed to Broadview in a convoy in the Logan Square neighborhood.ⁱ There, they encountered a crowd that formed around their vehicle, with a motorcyclist and other cars in their path.ⁱⁱ Witnesses reported a helicopter overhead and numerous DHS vehicles in the area.ⁱⁱⁱ Tensions escalated quickly: federal agents were heard insulting bystanders, discussing the use of tear gas, and debating how to approach the situation.^{iv} Media reports state that the event lasted just over 30 seconds, and in that time federal agents deployed at least three tear gas canisters without any audible dispersal order, used a baton to physically strike an individual and used derogatory slurs toward protesters and other motorists.^v

Several bystanders sought medical attention for chemical exposure.^{vi} The incident unfolded near Funston Elementary School, where children were outside for recess but quickly rushed indoors.^{vii} School officials later confirmed that no students were harmed, but out of an abundance of caution, they made the decision to move remaining recess activities inside.^{viii}

DHS publicly stated that agents used tear gas and pepper balls only after protesters impeded their vehicles and ignored repeated verbal commands to disperse.^{ix} However, this investigation, as well as Judge Sara Ellis' review of the incident in the Chicago Headline Club litigation in federal court, found no evidence indicating that DHS agents issued a dispersal order.^x

One bystander later opined that the purpose of DHS's presence in Logan Square was to instill "fear" in the community—something the witness believed DHS ultimately accomplished.^{xi} Yet it was that same sense of fear that catalyzed a "watershed moment" for the neighborhood. According to this witness, residents quickly recognized the need to work collectively: volunteers organized grocery deliveries and routine check-ins with vulnerable families; community organizations offered training on how to safely interact with DHS agents; and neighbors who had lived on the same block for years without prior contact began exchanging information and forming WhatsApp groups. On the day of the incident, as the school day at Funston Elementary ended, dozens of community members gathered around the school, forming "human walking shields" to ensure students made it home safely.^{xii} This witness expressed to IAC that it was important for students and their families to know that they are not alone.^{xiii}

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

On October 3, 2025, Border Patrol agents Enrique Camacho, Angel Nieves, and Ricardo Moreno from CBP's Mobile Response Team were assigned to provide security to a team of federal agents who were conducting immigration enforcement in the Cicero area.^{xiv} The federal agents had apprehended several subjects and were driving back to Broadview in a convoy led by a marked Border Patrol vehicle.^{xv} The federal agents reported that several civilian vehicles were following them.^{xvi} Multiple witnesses reported observing a DHS helicopter in the skies above the Logan Square neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois.^{xvii} At the same time, several DHS vehicles were seen positioned near Rico Fresh Market on West Armitage Avenue.^{xviii} Local media reported that Rico Fresh Market, a Mexican grocery store, had been a frequent target of immigration enforcement since the beginning of Operation Midway Blitz.^{xix}

At approximately 11:48 AM, Agents Camacho, Nieves, and Moreno stopped at a red light at the intersection of North Drake Avenue and West Armitage Avenue.^{xx} A crowd began to form around the federal agents' vehicle.^{xxi} According to a declaration from CBP Agent Daniel Parra submitted in federal court, the crowd yelled at the agents and told them to leave while sticking out their middle fingers.^{xxii} Witnesses described the atmosphere as tense, with many bystanders expressing fear and confusion.^{xxiii}

A motorcyclist stopped diagonally in front of the federal agents' vehicle, effectively blocking them from moving.^{xxiv} Other civilian vehicles also stopped around the federal agents.^{xxv} However, based on IAC's investigation it is unclear whether these additional civilian vehicles were intentionally blocking the federal vehicles or were simply unsure of what to do with their vehicle as the incident escalated quickly.

The crowd grew almost immediately and one witness, David Beale, was traveling by bicycle near the intersection.^{xxvi} Beale noted that federal agents taunted him and others in the crowd, including an officer calling him a derogatory slur.^{xxvii} Beale eventually approached the driver of the vehicle and urged agents to avoid escalation.^{xxviii} Judge Ellis, combining the declaration from David Beale with Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage from an agent inside the Border Patrol vehicle, provides the following account (internal citations omitted):

"Beale approached the driver of the agents' vehicle and told him that "We don't want anyone to get hurt here," explaining that those gathered were concerned neighbors....

One of the agents in the car pulled out tear gas and commented, "I throw the gas outside

the -- in front of the vehicle," to which another agent responded, "no, no, no there's too much pedestrians."

An agent then can be heard yelling "hurry up, dude, please," followed by another agent saying "tiralo" (throw it, in Spanish) and "if they throw it back, shoot 'em."

The agent in the passenger seat of the vehicle then threw a tear gas canister out the window.^{xxxix}



Image 1 U.S. District Court for Northern District of Illinois^{xxx}

Agent Nieves reported that he attempted to shoot pepper balls from an air launcher to saturate the ground around the motorcyclist, but the launcher did not work.^{xxxi} At approximately 11:50 AM, Agent Moreno reported that he threw tear gas canisters from the window toward the crowd of protesters to disperse them.^{xxxii} No audible dispersal order was heard by Beale nor evidenced by any of the materials reviewed in this investigation.^{xxxiii} Video evidence shows the intersection rapidly filling with gas, prompting immediate dispersal of bystanders.^{xxxiv} Onlookers began blowing whistles and shouting warnings to alert others in the vicinity.^{xxxv}

Following the deployment of tear gas, the motorcyclist in front of the federal agents' vehicle did not move.^{xxxvi} According to the federal agents' incident report, Agents Nieves and Moreno decided to physically move the motorcyclist.^{xxxvii} They exited their vehicle and approached the motorcyclist.^{xxxviii} Agent Nieves reported that he saw Agent Moreno strike the headlight of the motorcycle and the seat with a baton to scare the motorcyclist.^{xxxix} Agent Moreno reported that after the motorcyclist backed his motorcycle and made contact with the bumper of the agents' vehicle, he struck the motorist in the right leg once and the seat twice.^{xl} The motorist then moved his motorcycle and the agents returned to their vehicle.^{xli}



Image 2 U.S. District Court for Northern District of Illinois^{xlii}

Mere seconds later, a civilian picked up a thrown tear gas canister and threw it back toward the federal agents' vehicle before the vehicle accelerated away.^{xliii} All DHS vehicles subsequently departed the scene.^{xliii} The entire sequence—from the initial blockage of the lead DHS vehicle to when all DHS vehicles fled the scene—lasted approximately sixty seconds, though exact timing is difficult to confirm.

Bystanders immediately began assisting individuals affected by the chemical irritants, several civilians sought medical attention on site, and CPD responded to calls for service.^{xliii}

Later on October 3, DHS assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin issued a statement to the media describing the incident as part of a "targeted immigration enforcement operation."^{xliii} According to the agency, its vehicles were impeded by protesters, and agents deployed tear gas and

pepper balls only after “repeated vocal attempts to disperse the crowd.”^{xlvii} This account differs in critical respects from both witness statements and video evidence indicating that no dispersal order was heard prior to the deployment of chemical irritants.

Impact on Funston Elementary^{xlviii}

The incident occurred adjacent to Funston Elementary School while some students were outside for recess.^{xlix} A Funston teacher reported that a small number of children were outdoors when the irritants were released but were quickly brought inside.^l As a precaution, the school held all remaining recess periods indoors for the rest of the day.^{li}

Later that afternoon, Funston Elementary officials issued a communication to families acknowledging the federal law enforcement activity near the school.^{lii} Although the incident did not occur on school grounds, administrators emphasized that indoor recess was implemented out of an abundance of caution.^{liii}

When students were set to be dismissed from school, dozens of community members gathered around the school’s perimeter.^{liv} Residents reported that they assembled to ensure student safety during dismissal and to provide additional oversight as families arrived to pick up their children.^{lv}

At the Commission’s February 24, 2026, hearing, Juliet de Jesus Alejandre, Executive Director of Palenque LSNA, shared a comment from a teacher at Funston Elementary: “the presence of federal agents outside was the most dangerous day my students ever faced at school.”^{lvi}

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:

- Agent Moreno and other federal agents who deployed tear gas while stopped on a busy street near an elementary school used excessive and retaliatory force against protesters, pedestrians, and other drivers. The protesters were not violent and were not assaulting or attacking the federal agents. Witness accounts and video evidence indicate that federal agents deployed tear gas without a clearly audible dispersal order

and within seconds of initial contact with the crowd. The agents made no arrest and there did not appear to be a legitimate law enforcement purpose for gassing the entire street, including other motorists. Gassing other motorists placed the public at risk from potential incapacitation. The agents' conduct also violated agency policy, which prohibits CBP agents from using chemical agents against motorists and small children. Civilians experienced physical distress from chemical irritants, school operations were disrupted, and residents mobilized to ensure the safety of children during dismissal.

- Agent Moreno used excessive force when he struck the motorcyclist in the leg with his metal baton. The motorcyclist was, at most, passively resisting by stopping his motorcycle in front of the federal agents. There is no indication that the motorcyclist was assaultive or violent, and the contact the motorcyclist reportedly made to the federal agents' front bumper did not likely pose a significant threat to the agents. Accordingly, Agent Moreno also violated CBP policy because the policy does not authorize a baton strike against a subject who is only passively resisting. The policy requires that subjects offer, at a minimum, assaultive resistance to the agents.

Endnotes

- i* CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25687, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 338-3 at 9-11 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2026).
- ii* *Id.*
- iii* Laura Rodriguez Presa et. al., *Chicagoans Say ICE Agents Responded to Heckling With Tear Gas Near School on Busy Northwest Side Street*, Chicago Tribune (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/03/ice-agents-tear-gas-school-street/>.
- iv* Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- v* *Id.*; Laura Rodriguez Presa et. al., *Chicagoans Say ICE Agents Responded to Heckling With Tear Gas Near School on Busy Northwest Side Street*, Chicago Tribune (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/03/ice-agents-tear-gas-school-street/>.
- vi* Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo, *Masked Federal Agent Throws Chemical Irritants Outside Logan Square Grocery Store: 'My eyes are burning'*, Chicago Sun-Times (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2025/10/03/federal-agent-chemical-irritants-rico-fresh-logan-square>.
- vii* Charlie De Mar and Todd Feurer, *Federal Agent Throws Tear Gas Canister From SUV on Busy Chicago Street*, CBS Chicago (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/federal-immigration-agent-throws-tear-gas-canister-logan-square-street/>.
- viii* *Id.*
- ix* Laura Rodriguez Presa et. al., *Chicagoans Say ICE Agents Responded to Heckling With Tear Gas Near School on Busy Northwest Side Street*, Chicago Tribune (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/03/ice-agents-tear-gas-school-street/>.
- x* Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xi* IAC Interview with Logan Square resident (Feb. 10, 2026).
- xii* *Id.*
- xiii* *Id.*; See also David Struett, *'Sanctuary' Mission of Logan Square Grade School Tested by Fed's Use of Tear Gas, Teacher Says*, Chicago Sun-Times (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2025/10/09/funston-elementary-logan-square-school-tear-gas-johnson>.
- xiv* CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25687, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 338-3 at 9-11 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2026).
- xv* *Id.*
- xvi* *Id.*
- xvii* Laura Rodriguez Presa et. al., *Chicagoans Say ICE Agents Responded to Heckling With Tear Gas Near School on Busy Northwest Side Street*, Chicago Tribune (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/03/ice-agents-tear-gas-school-street/>.
- xviii* Melody Mercado, *Family, Grocery Shoppers Run as Masked Agent Throws Smoke Bomb Onto Busy Chicago Street*, Block Club Chicago (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/03/family-grocery-shoppers-run-as-masked-agent-throws-smoke-bomb-onto-busy-chicago-street/>.
- xix* Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo, *Masked Federal Agent Throws Chemical Irritants Outside Logan Square Grocery Store: 'My eyes are burning'*, Chicago Sun-Times (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2025/10/03/federal-agent-chemical-irritants-rico-fresh-logan-square>.
- xx* CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25687, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 338-3 at 9-11 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2026).
- xxi* Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xxii* Decl. of Daniel Parra, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 173-2 at 13 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 31, 2025).
- xxiii* Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xxiv* *Id.*
- xxv* *Id.*
- xxvi* Note that IAC was unable to reach Mr. Beale, but all information attributed to him stems from his declaration submitted in federal court regarding this incident; See Decl. of David Beale, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 73-10 at 1-4 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 21, 2025); See also Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).

- xxvii Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xxviii *Id.*
- xxix *Id.*
- xxx Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 104 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xxxi CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25687, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 338-3 at 9-11 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2026).
- xxxii *Id.*
- xxxiii Decl. of David Beale, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 73-10 at 1-4 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 21, 2025)
- xxxiv Charlie De Mar and Todd Feurer, *Federal Agent Throws Tear Gas Canister From SUV on Busy Chicago Street*, CBS Chicago (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/federal-immigration-agent-throws-tear-gas-canister-logan-square-street/>.
- xxxv *Id.*
- xxxvi Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 103-05 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xxxvii CBP E-STAR Incident Report #25687, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 338-3 at 9-11 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2026).
- xxxviii *Id.*
- xxxix *Id.*
- xl *Id.*
- xli *Id.*
- xlii Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173, Doc. 281 at 105 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).
- xliii Charlie De Mar and Todd Feurer, *Federal Agent Throws Tear Gas Canister From SUV on Busy Chicago Street*, CBS Chicago (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/federal-immigration-agent-throws-tear-gas-canister-logan-square-street/>.
- xliv *Id.*
- xlv IAC Interview with a Logan Square resident who spoke on condition of anonymity (Feb. 10, 2026).
- xlvi Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo, *Masked Federal Agent Throws Chemical Irritants Outside Logan Square Grocery Store: 'My eyes are burning'*, Chicago Sun-Times (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2025/10/03/federal-agent-chemical-irritants-rico-fresh-logan-square>.
- xlvii *Id.*
- xlviii Note that IAC's attempts to contact staff at Funston Elementary for interviews were unsuccessful.
- xliv Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo, *Masked Federal Agent Throws Chemical Irritants Outside Logan Square Grocery Store: 'My eyes are burning'*, Chicago Sun-Times (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2025/10/03/federal-agent-chemical-irritants-rico-fresh-logan-square>.
- l *Id.*
- li *Id.*
- lii Laura Rodriguez Presa et. al., *Chicagoans Say ICE Agents Responded to Heckling With Tear Gas Near School on Busy Northwest Side Street*, Chicago Tribune (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/03/ice-agents-tear-gas-school-street/>.
- liii *Id.*
- liv *Id.*
- lv *Id.*
- lvi Testimony of Juliet de Jesus Alejandre at Commission's Feb. 24, 2026, hearing.

