



**ILLINOIS**  
**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**COMMISSION**

**Initial Report**  
**January 2026**



# Letter from the Chair

News reports, social media accounts and lawsuits have meticulously documented the violence committed by federal immigration agents during Operation Midway Blitz and other immigration enforcement campaigns across the country.

That violence continued this month when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers shot and killed Renee Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The videos of these shootings have sent shockwaves throughout the country. In each instance, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) blamed the victim for the force used against them. Investigative news outlets have thoroughly refuted DHS' versions of events.<sup>1</sup> These incidents – and the efforts by DHS to lie about them – echo what we saw in Chicago with the shootings of Silverio Villegas González and Marimar Martinez, among other violent events.<sup>2</sup> Yet the federal Administration continues to deny the facts we can see with our own eyes.

There appears to be no desire on the part of the federal government to prosecute, discipline or terminate anyone involved in Operation Midway Blitz or the deaths in Minneapolis. Instead, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commander Gregory Bovino referred to the agents responsible for killing Alex Pretti as “victims.”<sup>3</sup> The Department of Justice said there is no basis to open a criminal civil rights investigation into Renee Good’s death and Minnesota’s investigative law enforcement agency said it was denied access to evidence by federal officials in both shootings. In response to most allegations of misconduct by ICE agents, federal administration officials defended the agents and gave vague statements about internal reviews that call into question whether anyone is investigating them at all. The day ICE officers shot Alex Pretti, U.S. District Court Judge Eric C. Tostrud entered an order preventing DHS from destroying or altering evidence related to the shooting.<sup>4</sup> As a former U.S. District Court Judge, it is shocking that a federal court needs to order the federal government not to destroy evidence of a fatal shooting.

In this landscape, what is the role of this Commission? Truth and accountability are central tenets of our work. We are here to find and preserve stories not yet told, identify where wrongs were committed, and explore paths to bring wrongdoers to justice now and in the future. This Commission does not have the authority to prosecute crimes or discipline a federal official, but we can investigate, memorialize, and share our findings.

Documenting the truth is a form of accountability in itself, especially in the shadow of a federal administration that lies, distorts, and doubles down when confronted with criticism and facts.

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<sup>1</sup> The New York Times, *Video Analysis of ICE Shooting Sheds Light on Contested Moments*, Jan. 15, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/15/video/ice-shooting-renee-good-minneapolis-videos.html>; Devon Lum & Haley Willis, *Videos Show Moments in Which Agents Killed a Man in Minneapolis*, The New York Times, Jan. 24, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/24/us/minneapolis-shooting-federal-agents-video.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Chip Mitchell, *ICE Shooting in Minneapolis Echoes What Feds Did in Chicago*, WBEZ, Jan. 8, 2026, <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2026/01/08/ice-shooting-minneapolis-chicago-homeland-security-immigration-deportation>.

<sup>3</sup> CNN, *Dana Bash Presses Greg Bovino About Video Analysis That Appears to Contradict DHS Account of Fatal Shooting of Alex Pretti*, Jan. 25, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/25/politics/video/bovino-dana-bash-full-interview-digvid>.

<sup>4</sup> Order, *Minn. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension et. al., v. Noem*, 26-cv-000628 (D. Minn. Jan. 24, 2026).

Take these examples:

**Claim:** Federal administration officials claim they are protecting Chicago and Illinois against crime and that welcoming city policies are a threat to public safety.

**Fact:** Chicago's homicide, violent crime, and property crime rates all dropped in 2025,<sup>5</sup> part of a larger trend that can be attributed to many factors.<sup>6</sup> Studies show that jurisdictions with welcoming policies have lower crime rates than those without such policies<sup>7</sup> and crime rates decreased when the population share of immigrants increased.<sup>8</sup>

**Claim:** Federal administration officials claim they are targeting foreign criminals with significant and violent criminal history – the “worst of the worst.”<sup>9</sup>

**Fact:** The number of individuals detained by ICE without any criminal record increased by 2,000% since January.<sup>10</sup> Even Commander Bovino conceded they arrested U.S. citizens.<sup>11</sup> Although Commander Bovino claimed these individuals were mostly, if not all, arrested for obstructing a federal officer, data suggests that many were arrested after their citizenship was questioned and most were never charged with any crime.<sup>12</sup>

**Claim:** Commander Bovino called the conduct of federal immigration officers “more than exemplary” and DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said officers “have behaved with the utmost professionalism.”<sup>13</sup>

**Fact:** Two U.S. District Court Judges found that federal immigration officers improperly used force, including tear gas and pepper spray, against protesters and journalists.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Quinn Myers, *Chicago Recorded Fewest Murders In 60 Years In 2025, Bucking Trump's 'Murder Capital' Insult*, Block Club Chicago, Jan. 2, 2026, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2026/01/02/chicago-recorded-fewest-murders-in-60-years-in-2025-bucking-trumps-murder-capital-insult/>.

<sup>6</sup> Reis Thebault et. al., *These Five Cities Help Explain Why Homicide Rates Are Down Across the U.S.*, The Washington Post, Nov. 20, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2025/homicide-rates-us-cities/>.

<sup>7</sup> Center for American Progress, “The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy,” Jan. 16, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>.

<sup>8</sup> American Immigration Council, “Debunking the Myth of Immigrants and Crime,” Oct. 2024, [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/debunking\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_immigrants\\_and\\_crime.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/debunking_the_myth_of_immigrants_and_crime.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Sec., “Arrested: Worst of the Worst,” <https://www.dhs.gov-wow>.

<sup>10</sup> CBS News, *The Number Of Non-Criminal Detainees Arrested By ICE Has Surged By 2,000% Under Trump. These Charts Show Who's In Detention*, Nov. 26, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-detainee-data-fastest-growing-without-criminal-records-trump/>.

<sup>11</sup> Real America with Dan Ball, “Dan Ball w/Gregory Bovino, Rep. Marlin Stutzman, Hogan Gidley, Chloe Cole,” One America Network, Jan. 16, 2026, available at: <https://www.spreaker.com/episode/1-15-26-dan-ball-w-gregory-bovino-rep-marlin-stutzman-hogan-gidley-chloe-cole--69470033>.

<sup>12</sup> Nicole Fay, *We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held By Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged And Detained For Days.*, Pro Publica, Oct. 16, 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>.

<sup>13</sup> Erik Ortiz et. al, *Demands Grow For ICE Accountability, But Trump Administration Cutbacks Leave Fewer Options*, NBC News, Jan. 9, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/demands-grow-ice-accountability-minneapolis-trump-administration-cutba-rcna252875>.

<sup>14</sup> Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 7, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025); Order, *Tincher v. Noem*, 0:25-cv-04669 (D. Minn. Jan. 16, 2026).

This is just a sample of the lies being told and the list could go on. The Commission's investigative work over the months ahead will focus on documenting the truth – with precision and clarity – so that the public will have the evidence it needs to judge Operation Midway Blitz.

The purpose of this Initial Status Report is to comply with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order establishing the Commission and also to show the public what work the Commission has been doing, what we hope to do next, and to importantly seek input about policy recommendations that the Commission should make in its Final Report.

I want to thank my fellow volunteer Commissioners and the dedicated staff at the State who are powering this work. Finally, thank you to the rapid responders, community leaders, and everyday residents of Illinois who have gone above and beyond to protect and support their neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rubén Castillo".

Judge Rubén Castillo  
Chair, Illinois Accountability Commission

## Executive Summary

The announcement of Operation Midway Blitz on September 8, 2025, was part of a calculated campaign to sow fear and chaos in an American city that the Trump Administration saw as noncompliant with its policies on immigration. President Trump and federal officials at his direction spent months ramping up their immigration enforcement tools, testing out new tactics, and threatening to come for Chicago and Illinois. Even before the inauguration, President-elect Trump's 'Border Czar' Tom Homan said the Administration's immigration enforcement was "going to start right here in Chicago, Illinois." The Trump Administration's first publicized aggressive enforcement effort of 2025 was in Chicago with Operation Safeguard, just days after the January inauguration. Television personality "Dr. Phil" McGraw broadcasted live alongside Homan, while Homan roused federal immigration agents:

"We control the narrative," said Homan, "The Left's gonna come at us. They already are, right? I'm the most hated man in America. I don't give a shit... We're controlling the narrative. We're gonna show the American people exactly what we're doing."

Homan's words, and those that followed from federal officials at the DHS, were only partly true. DHS attempted to "control the narrative" with a barrage of flashy Hollywood-style produced videos of militarized officers pulling people, including U.S. citizens, off the streets, marching people out of their homes in handcuffs, repelling on apartment buildings from helicopters, and standing guard on American streets armed with military style rifles, teargas, rubber bullets, and pepper spray. At no point, however, did DHS "show the American people exactly what we're doing," as Homan promised. DHS's actions were ostensibly predicated on the need to arrest dangerous, violent criminals, but DHS did not tell the American people that in the first six weeks of Operation Midway Blitz, less than 15% of the individuals arrested had any criminal record and only 3% had a violent crime in their record; many of the people arrested were U.S. citizens, targeted based on their race or language; and that the people they attacked with teargas included peaceful protestors exercising their rights, children and bystanders.

Misdirection and lies were not only a pattern, but a feature of Operation Midway Blitz. At the Commission's first hearing on December 18, 2025, the Commission saw and heard evidence establishing that federal agents sprayed chemical agents into a car containing a family, including two children, ages 1 and 16. The family was pepper-sprayed on their way home from Sam's Club. They had no prior interaction with U.S. ICE that day, and they certainly were not violent criminals. The Commission was shown video of the incident. There's no doubt it happened. Nevertheless, DHS called news reports about the incident a "disgusting pepper spray hoax."

Another feature of Operation Midway Blitz was federal immigration agents' indiscriminate use of chemical irritants and other crowd control weapons against members of the public without justification. Dr. Rohini Haar, an expert in the use of "less lethal" crowd control weapons, told the Commission at its December 2025 hearing that she reviewed and analyzed over a dozen publicly reported use of force incidents during Operation Midway Blitz and concluded that she saw no evidence that justified the use of force in any of those instances. Dr. Haar also provided her expert opinion about the immediate and long-term medical effects of being exposed to chemical irritants, including the physiological and psychological damage that can occur. DHS, rather than investigating these and other incidents, has spewed through its official spokespeople a steady stream of racial stereotypes, nativist tropes, and falsehoods.

These patterns have disturbingly continued as DHS has expanded its immigration enforcement campaigns to other cities across the country, including most recently in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where two individuals were shot and killed by ICE officers.

The members of Illinois Accountability Commission are echoing the alarm sounded by many others. The actions taken by the federal government throughout 2025 demonstrate a deliberate and continual escalation of tactics and rhetoric that the federal government either intended or at least should have foreseen would result in excessive uses of force and misconduct by federal immigration agents. Furthermore, these tactics and rhetoric stoked fear throughout Chicago and Illinois, especially within immigrant communities.

DHS also created conditions intended to coerce immigrants into purportedly “voluntary” self-deportation by detaining them automatically and indefinitely, holding them in inhumane conditions, preventing them from contacting lawyers and their families, and denying them due process.<sup>15</sup> The Commissioners, whose members include former federal prosecutors and judges, acknowledge that these are grave accusations to level against the federal government. They do not make them lightly. American democracy, however, hangs in the balance.

This initial report is intended to be a preliminary account. It is an attempt to explain: how did we get here? The answer: not by accident. Even before the start of Operation Midway Blitz, the Trump Administration took nearly 200 executive actions targeting immigrants and strengthening federal immigration enforcement, including stripping 1.6 million immigrants of previously lawful status, rescinding long-standing protections against arrests at schools and courthouse, expanding the use of mandatory detention and increasing the length of time individuals were kept in holding facilities. This list goes on.

The actions taken by the federal administration in 2025 and earlier demonstrate an intent to target Illinois and Chicago because of its long history of welcoming and supporting immigrant communities, to instill fear that caused people to hide or leave, and to mislead the public. This initial report sets out those actions. The members of the Commission believe that the public must be provided with the context and history of the Trump Administration’s actions. Only then can we collectively appreciate the methods, impact, and significance of recent events. The recent past is, unfortunately, prologue. In turn, the Commission’s future hearings and reports will further present and document what was unleashed in Chicagoland during ICE’s Operation Midway Blitz and CBP’s Operation At Large between September and December of 2025 (collectively referred to here as “Operation Midway Blitz”).

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<sup>15</sup> Amy Qin and Sophie Sherry, *Broadview Detainees During Operation Midway Blitz Were Self-Reporting at Alarming Rates, Analysis Finds*, Chicago Sun-Times, Dec. 28, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/12/28/broadview-detainees-operation-midway-blitz-self-reporting-high-rates-analysis-finds>.

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# Illinois Accountability Commission: Background

On October 23, 2025, Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive Order 2025-06 establishing the Illinois Accountability Commission.<sup>1</sup> The Commission was created in response to the deployment of large numbers of ICE and CBP officers by DHS to the Chicagoland area in September 2025 as part of an enforcement ‘blitz’ during which federal agents employed unprecedented, militarized tactics, including repeated uses of force, causing widespread fear and intimidation and resulting in the wrongful detention U.S. citizens and others.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the Commission is to (1) create a public record of the conduct of federal agents during “Operation Midway Blitz” and the Trump Administration’s military-style operations throughout the Chicagoland area; (2) examine the impact of that conduct on individuals and communities; and (3) consider policy recommendations to prevent future harm to these individuals and communities.

In announcing the Commission, Governor Pritzker stated:

“We are going to show the public – here in Chicago, the State of Illinois, across the nation, and around the world – exactly what is going on. We will create a detailed record, and that record will reflect reality. Once this all ends, I believe there will be people of good faith who will review what the Commission has recorded and will demand answers and accountability.”<sup>3</sup>

To accomplish these objectives, the Commission was asked to:

- a) Determine the most effective manner in which the Commission can gather publicly-available videos documenting the actions of federal officers—including agents of DHS components (such as ICE and CBP) and other federal agents working in coordination with DHS—during “Operation Midway Blitz”;
- b) Gather additional information and documentation, to the extent possible, of the actions of federal law enforcement and the impact of those actions, including through testimony;
- c) Create a public record, including through public hearings, to document the conduct of federal officers during “Operation Midway Blitz” and its impact on Illinois residents;
- d) Analyze the documented conduct of federal officers during “Operation Midway Blitz” and identify conduct requiring the most urgent corrective action and remediation based on its impact on the community and the egregiousness of the conduct;
- e) Make recommendations for law or policy changes to ensure greater protection for Illinois residents from violations of their rights and to ensure community safety;
- f) Provide, not later than January 31, 2026, an initial status report to the Governor, and, not later than April 30, 2026, a final report; and
- g) Refer, as appropriate, information or reports of potential violations of law to the agencies or entities responsible for investigating or enforcing such violations.

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<sup>1</sup> Ill. Exec. Order 2025-06 (Oct. 23, 2025), available at: <https://www.illinois.gov/government/executive-orders/executive-order.executive-order-2025-06.2025.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Press Release, Office of the Governor, “Gov. Pritzker Signs Executive Order to Establish the Illinois Accountability Commission,” Oct. 23, 2025, available at: <https://gov-pritzker-newsroom.prezly.com/gov-pritzker-signs-executive-order-to-establish-the-illinois-accountability-commission>.

# Commission Members

The Commission is composed of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and six additional members, each appointed by the Governor. Each Commissioner serves without compensation, and the term of each Commission member expires one year from the date of their appointment. Commission members may be reappointed or replaced at the pleasure of the Governor, and the Commission shall dissolve one year after the date of the Executive Order unless extended by the Governor.

## **The Honorable Rubén Castillo (Chair):**

Judge Rubén Castillo served as Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for 25 years and served as the Chief Judge for six of those years. He served multiple terms on the U.S. Sentencing Commission — appointed by President Bill Clinton and re-appointed by President George W. Bush. He is a former federal prosecutor and highly regarded leader who received numerous law enforcement awards for his previous work in the Special Prosecution Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

## **The Honorable Patricia Brown Holmes (Vice Chair):**

Judge Patricia Brown Holmes is the managing partner of the law firm of Riley Safer Holmes and Cancila, LLP, which she also founded. Judge Holmes has experience on the Illinois state bench and as a state and federal prosecutor, having served as an associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Assistant State's Attorney. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

## **Aurora Austriaco:**

Aurora Austriaco is an experienced and award-winning litigation attorney and a partner and shareholder at an all-women-owned law firm, with a long record of leadership, locally and nationally. Austriaco is currently serving as Commissioner for the Illinois Courts Commission. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

## **Professor Susan Gzesh:**

Professor Gzesh is an Instructional Professor at University of Chicago and the prior Executive Director of the University of Chicago Pozen Family Center for Human Rights. She has concentrated her legal practice on the representation of immigrants and refugees in immigration, labor, and civil rights matters. She was a founding attorney of the Midwest Immigrant Rights Center (now the National Immigrant Justice Center), was retained as legal counsel to the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C. from 1997-1999, and she co-led a project for the Mexican Foreign Ministry from 2010-2014, among other accomplishments. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

## **Linda Xóchitl Tortolero:**

A lawyer and strategist, Linda Xóchitl Tortolero is President and CEO of Latino Policy Forum, and she also serves on the Women's Advisory Council of the Mayor's Office for the City of Chicago and the Board of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice. She previously led Mujeres Latinas en Acción, the longest-standing Latina organization in the country, playing a pivotal role in its transformative expansion and strategic positioning. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

### **Commander Cindy Sam:**

Commander Sam is retired from the Chicago Police Department, having served as a police officer for over 34 years, including serving as Commander and leading police security operations for one of the nation's largest urban transit systems. Previously, she served as Lieutenant of Public Transportation at Midway Airport, leading security and protection strategies. (Appointed Oct. 23, 2025)

### **Jimmy L. Arce:**

Jimmy L. Arce is a former federal prosecutor with extensive experience leading complex criminal and civil investigations in the Northern District of Illinois. He played a key role in the Department of Justice's civil rights investigation of the Chicago Police Department, which led to a landmark consent decree. In private practice at Dowd Bennett LLP, Arce represents clients in commercial litigation and white-collar matters, bringing expertise in federal investigations, enforcement, and institutional oversight. (Appointed Nov. 20, 2025)

**Ric Estrada:** Ric Estrada is CEO of Metropolitan Family Services, one of Illinois's largest human-services organizations. With more than three decades in public service and nonprofit leadership — including senior roles in the City of Chicago — Estrada brings a community-centered perspective and a strong track record of guiding organizations that serve families and neighborhoods directly affected by federal actions. (Appointed Nov. 20, 2025).

The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) provides administrative and professional support to the operations of the Commission. The Commission is authorized to also work with subject matter experts and non-profit organizations, to ensure that it has access to appropriate staffing and expertise to conduct its review and analysis of the actions of federal law enforcement. As of this Initial Status Report, the Commission has hired an Executive Director, Lead Counsel, Special Counsel and Commission Counsel to support the Commission's work.

## **The Commission's Activities to Date**

This report satisfies the requirement in Executive Order 2025-06 to produce an initial status report to the Governor no later than January 31, 2026.<sup>4</sup> Since the appointment of Commissioners on October 23, 2025, the Commission has begun extensive information gathering initiatives. The Commission continues to gather news accounts, social media posts, testimony in court proceedings, statements by federal officials, and other publicly available information that will inform the Commission's findings. The Commission is also identifying and interviewing eyewitnesses to events that occurred throughout Chicagoland during Operation Midway Blitz with a particular focus on eyewitnesses who:

- Experienced or observed misconduct of federal immigration agents,
- Were inappropriately arrested or detained by federal officers, or
- Experienced or observed federal officers using excessive force during arrests or crowd control activities.

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<sup>4</sup> Ill. Executive Order 2025-06.

The Commission is also gathering first-hand accounts from individuals, families, children, businesses, and communities that were impacted by Operation Midway Blitz and consulting experts to measure that impact on the health and well-being of Chicagoland residents as well as on the stability of family structures. The Commission is working with subject matter experts who can provide testimony in future hearings to evaluate the conduct of federal immigration agents, illustrate the propaganda-like tactics being used by federal officials, and identify needed policy changes that would improve the practices of federal immigration authorities and prevent the future use of aggressive tactics like those employed during Operation Midway Blitz.

The Commission is also working with community leaders and organizations that are supporting those most impacted by the federal enforcement efforts to elevate their stories and identify the needs of those communities.

The Commission has created a portal whereby individuals who witnessed or experienced potential misconduct by federal immigration law enforcement agents in Illinois during Operation Midway Blitz can submit their personal experiences to the Commission. For more information on how to submit information to the portal please visit <https://ilac.illinois.gov/interest-form.html>.

On December 18, 2025, the Commission held its first public hearing at the Arturo Velasquez Institute (AVI) at Richard J. Daley College.<sup>5</sup> During the meeting, the Commission heard testimony from two witnesses, Matt DeMateo and Dr. Rohini J. Haar, about the use of “less lethal” crowd control weapons by federal immigration agents during Operation Midway Blitz. Together, their testimony provided compelling evidence about how federal agents have been inappropriately using chemical crowd control weapons and how harmful those weapons can be. The Commission also received comments from members of the public.

## Testimony of Pastor Matt DeMateo

Matt DeMateo is a pastor and the CEO of New Life Centers, a Chicago-based nonprofit dedicated to mentoring, education, violence prevention, and family support. Since becoming New Life’s CEO in 2013, he has overseen the expansion of programs including restorative justice, street outreach, trauma-informed services, and food access initiatives, serving thousands of youth and families citywide. With a long history of community engagement, he is deeply committed to creating safe, supportive spaces and opportunities for young people to thrive.

Pastor DeMateo provided the Commission with testimony of his first-hand account of an incident in the Little Village neighborhood on November 8, 2025. At around 11:00 a.m. Pastor DeMateo was alerted by a community rapid response group that immigration officers had been seen conducting immigration arrests and driving at high speeds around the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. Pastor DeMateo drove to the intersection of 26th Street and Pulaski Avenue where he observed approximately 10 ICE vehicles stopped in the middle of the street. At 11:09 a.m. he saw agents exiting their vehicles with rifles drawn and began to film the scene on his phone.

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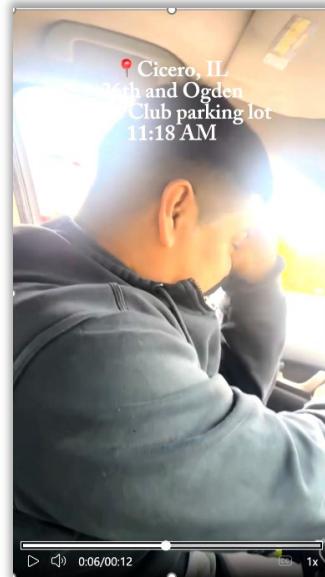
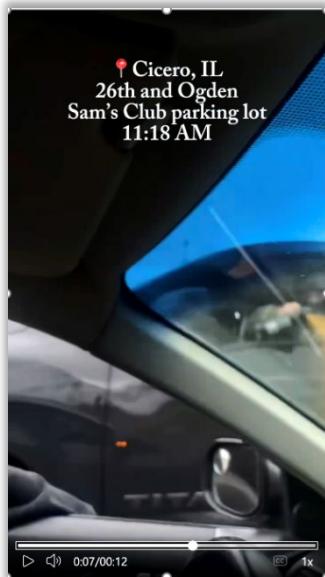
<sup>5</sup> A video recording of the Commission’s December 18, 2025, hearing is available at: <https://ilac.illinois.gov/commission-updates/2025-12-18-iac-hosts-first-meeting.html>.

Two flash bangs were detonated, and he then observed and recorded CBP Commander at Large Gregory Bovino pulling the pin on the cannister of a gas grenade and motioning as if to throw it towards a group of people several yards away. Pastor DeMateo testified that the only threat he observed during the interaction was that of force by the federal agents, and he observed no risk of harm or threat from any members of the community.

Then, as agents left the intersection, Pastor DeMateo followed down 26th Street towards a Sam's Club store near 26th Street and Ogden Avenue. He turned into the parking lot of the Sam's Club, and saw a family standing outside their vehicle, frantically rubbing their eyes in distress. The family – Rafael Veraza, his wife, his 1-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old relative – had intended to run errands that morning but decided to turn back and head home when they heard a helicopter and saw a swarm of federal agents in the area. Veraza's wife began recording video on her phone. Veraza and his family had not been in the vicinity of any ICE activity, had not participated in any protests, and were all U.S. citizens. However, they were concerned about the presence of so many federal agents, so they started to record video on a mobile phone. As they left the area, a black Nissan Titan pick-up truck drove past and sprayed a chemical irritant into the window of their vehicle. Video shows a federal agent leaning out of the truck spraying an orange chemical along the length of Veraza's vehicle, hitting Veraza who was driving the car and his daughter in the seat behind him. Pastor DeMateo provided the Commission with video of the attack taken by and obtained from Veraza's wife.



Source: video image provided by Pastor DeMateo.



Source: video images provided by Pastor DeMateo.

When Pastor DeMateo saw Veraza and his family in the Sam's Club parking lot, they were attempting to flush their eyes with water because the irritant was causing pain and temporary blindness to Veraza. Pastor

DeMateo and a colleague from New Life Centers drove Veraza to a nearby medical clinic, with Veraza's wife and child following in the car behind. During the drive, Veraza struggled to breathe and stay calm. His eyes burned in pain. In response to reports about the incident, DHS released a video on social media calling it "another disgusting pepper spray hoax" and claiming "guys, ICE does not pepper spray children."<sup>6</sup> Video provided by Veraza directly contradicts DHS' statement.



Source: Department of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (Nov. 16, 2025, 12:33 PM).



Source: video image provided by Pastor DeMateo.

Pastor DeMateo also testified that he has seen significant harmful impacts of Operation Midway Blitz on his community. His church has experienced a 50% drop in attendance and neighborhood schools have seen drops in attendance. Several individuals from his congregation were arrested by ICE and, to his knowledge, none of them had a criminal record. DeMateo testified that he personally witnessed ICE officers arrest U.S. citizens, deploy tear gas and cause accidents through high-speed chases. He and his team have observed hundreds of examples of what they believe to be improper uses of force by ICE and CBP agents during Operation Midway Blitz. Since the launch of Operation Midway Blitz, his church established a Community Care Resource Hub to deliver food, supplies and clothing to families who fear going out in public, including over 600 meals per week to people in their homes.

<sup>6</sup> Dep't of Homeland Sec. (@DHSgov), X (Nov. 16, 2025 12:33 PM), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1990126088647753955>.

## Testimony of Dr. Rohini Haar

The Commission also heard testimony from Dr. Rohini J. Haar, MD, MPH. Dr. Haar is an Assistant Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley, and an emergency medicine physician with internationally recognized expertise in health and human rights. Her research focuses on the health impacts of human rights violations, including the use of so-called “crowd-control” weapons such as tear gas, violence against healthcare workers, and the effects of conflict on population health.

She appeared before the Commission as an expert witness, drawing on her contributions to the *Lethal in Disguise*<sup>7</sup> report on crowd-control weapons and her expert declaration in *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*,<sup>8</sup> which addresses the medical and public health harms associated with enforcement tactics used during Operation Midway Blitz.

Dr. Haar described several types of purportedly “less lethal crowd-control” weapons with a focus on chemical irritants, including tear gas and pepper spray, that were frequently used during Operation Midway Blitz. Although these chemical irritants are often called “crowd-control” or “less lethal weapons,” Dr. Haar testified that these are misnomers:

“Lethality depends on how they are used, and on who. Frequently they’re not used on crowds, they’re used on small groups or individuals. And they’re not really used to control crowds, but potentially to disperse, punish or suppress.”

Dr. Haar described how the deployment mechanisms for these chemical irritants – cannisters, grenades, spray, or projectiles – is significant for evaluating their potential for harm. Chemical irritants, she described, are inherently indiscriminate. Grenades and cannisters, for example, will release a cloud within 1-2 seconds after being deployed but law enforcement cannot control where the cloud will migrate and who will be in its path. Sprays can be deployed from close range up to 20 feet but the concentration that an individual experiences can vary based on that distance. A pepper bullet may be as large as a paintball, but much harder and can cause more pain.

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<sup>7</sup> Available at: <https://lethalindisguise.org/>.

<sup>8</sup> *Chicago Headline Club et. al. v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 6, 2025) (Pls’ Compl. for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief ¶ 9), was a lawsuit filed by media organizations, members of the clergy, and individual protesters against DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and other federal officials alleging that DHS agents violated their First Amendment right to participate in, observe and report on peaceful protests in the Chicagoland area with a “pattern of extreme brutality in a concerted and ongoing effort to silence the press and civilians.”

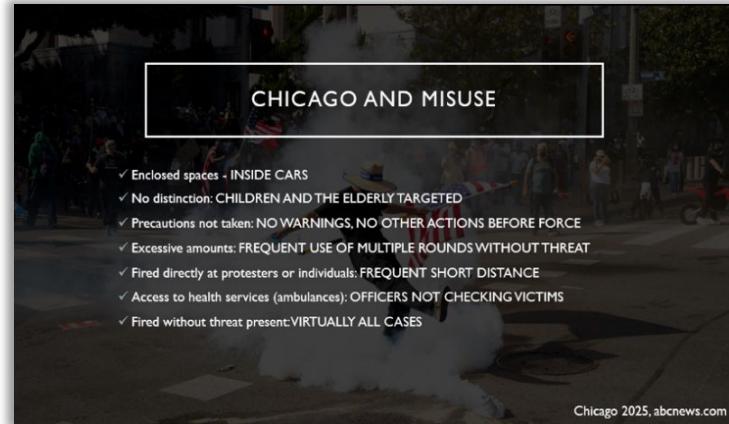


Image provided by Dr. Rohini Haar.

Chemical irritants are extremely painful and can cause injuries to all bodily systems, including:

- damage to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems,
- injuries to eyes, mouths, lungs, skin, and the nose, and
- blunt trauma from the force of direct impact.

She noted that vulnerable communities, including children and the elderly, can be even more susceptible to injury than the general public and less able to leave the scene quickly. And although these injuries are usually considered medically “temporary,” they can last for several hours or days.<sup>9</sup> Dr. Haar described findings from a review of medical literature since 2020 that identified over 100,000 injuries from chemical irritants, including 14 deaths from the blunt force of being hit with a cannister, permanent injuries and lifelong disability.

Dr. Haar discussed several factors that should be used to evaluate whether the use of a crowd-control weapon is warranted in a particular situation, consistent with her medical training and use of force policies adopted by law enforcement agencies around the country, about which she speaks frequently. These policies generally allow the use of crowd-control weapons only when there is a threat to public safety or imminent harm.



Source: Video Submitted in evidence in *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*

In evaluating a particular incident, Dr. Haar recommended considering: First, should the weapon have been used in the first place: Was there a threat? Were there other options? Was the use of force going to limit free speech? Second, if there was justification to use a crowd-control weapon, was it being used as safely as possible: Did they take precautions to give bystanders a warning

<sup>9</sup> Jess Ghannam, Rohini Haar, “No Safe Space: Health Consequences of Tear Gas Exposure Among Palestine Refugees,” Human Rights Center, UC Berkley School of Law, Jan. 1, 2018, <https://humanrights.berkeley.edu/publications/no-safe-space-study/>.

before a chemical agent was used? Did they attempt to limit indiscriminate harm to bystanders? Did they avoid firing directly at individuals?

Dr. Haar reviewed videos and photos from over a dozen incidents, including witness accounts, where federal agents deployed some form of chemical irritant during Operation Midway Blitz and found no case where the use of chemical weapons complied with nearly universally accepted norms. She concluded that (1) the use of force was, by and large, unjustified and (2) when it was being used, basic protocols that would protect health and limit injuries were not being followed.

At the hearing, Dr. Haar was shown videos of incidents in Brighton Park on October 4, Evanston on October 31, and Little Village on October 23 and November 8, 2025, where federal agents deployed chemical irritants. In each incident, she found the use was unjustified and inconsistent with safe practices. When shown video of Commander Bovino throwing a gas cannister into a crowd on October 23 in Little Village, Dr. Haar noted that she saw no apparent threat justifying those weapons and observed that Commander Bovino gave no warning before the cannister was thrown. As Dr. Haar explained, “When the leadership of an organization is doing this, it provides cover for everyone under him, and this is obviously a real top-down problem.”

## Public Comment

The Commission also provided an opportunity for members of the public to submit comments or testimony, share personal experiences or observations, and contribute relevant documentation. Thirteen public commenters provided in-person remarks to the Commission; they provided statements about the impact that Operation Midway Blitz has had on the physical and emotional health of Chicago residents; efforts that the City of Chicago and other organizations have taken to respond to Operation Midway Blitz; eyewitness accounts of racial profiling, use of force and chemical weapons against protesters, and improper arrests by federal immigration agents; the importance of documenting abuses and creating a public record; and the treatment of individuals who have been detained by ICE, including the deprivation of access to legal counsel.<sup>10</sup>

## Immigration Law Overview

The U.S. immigration system is governed by a web of statutes, regulations, and policies. While the immigration statutes have not substantially changed in the last few decades, regulations and policies are constantly changing and may be heavily influenced by the policy preferences of the sitting president. States can pass legislation to limit their cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and can enact pro-immigrant policies, but they do not determine who can be in the country lawfully or who is deported.

Several federal agencies play a role in federal immigration law. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contains many of the agencies that enforce federal immigration law, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The Department of State is responsible for granting and denying visas for individuals outside of the United States, and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is responsible for the care of unaccompanied minors.

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<sup>10</sup> A video recording of the December 18, 2025, hearing can be viewed at: <https://ilac.illinois.gov/commission-updates/2025-12-18-iac-hosts-first-meeting.html>.

Determining whether a non-citizen is lawfully present within the U.S. depends on the circumstances. A person may be a U.S. citizen, either by birth or because they were naturalized. A non-citizen may be a lawful permanent resident; have a “non-immigrant” status (e.g., tourist, student, or temporary authorized worker); have temporary permission to remain in the country for a period of time (“parole”); have been granted “deferred action” or “withholding of deportation”; have a temporary legal status such as “Temporary Protected Status”; be a lawfully admitted refugee; have been granted political asylum; or have no lawful immigration status (commonly known as “undocumented”). The legal authority of the federal government to detain or remove someone from the U.S., as well as the procedural protections that apply to them, depends on that person’s immigration status.

A Primer on the U.S. Immigration System to further explain the complicated framework of federal immigration law is attached to this Interim Report as Appendix B, and available on the Commission’s website.

## Illinois and Chicago’s Immigrant Legacy

Approximately 15% of Illinois’ 12.8 million residents were not born in the U.S.; of those foreign-born, nearly 950,000 are non-U.S. citizens<sup>11</sup> and over 1 million are naturalized U.S. citizens.<sup>12</sup> Illinois is home to 27,800 active Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, the third highest number of any state in the country.<sup>13</sup>

The City of Chicago was itself founded by an immigrant to this country. Although the land upon which the city was built was the homeland of the Ojibwe, Odwa, and Potawatomi Nations, the first non-native settler of the City of Chicago is recognized as Jean Baptiste DuSable, a Black Haitian immigrant.<sup>14</sup> By 1850, more than half of the Chicago population was foreign-born.<sup>15</sup> And by 2024, 597,415 residents (22%) were foreign-born, of which approximately 323,548 (12%) were non-U.S. citizens.<sup>16</sup> Although the population of non-citizen residents in Chicago had generally been decreasing since 2006, the numbers of non-citizen residents increased by 12% from 2023-2024.<sup>17</sup> This recent upward trend may have been driven by higher numbers of asylum-seekers, largely from the country of Venezuela, as well as an increase among the population of Mexican-born migrants.<sup>18</sup> In the Chicago metro area, 867,369 noncitizens comprise 9% of the Chicagoland population.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Census Bureau data does not distinguish between non-U.S. citizens who are lawfully present in the United States and those who are not lawfully present.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, “Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States,” available at: [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2014.B05001?t=Citizenship&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US17&y=2014](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2014.B05001?t=Citizenship&g=010XX00US_040XX00US17&y=2014).

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Count of Active DACA Recipients by State or Territory as of March 31, 2025, available at: <https://htv-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/files/daca-recipients-state-of-residence-688add6d42882.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> City of Chicago, Exec. Order 1985-1 (March 7, 1985), available at: [https://chicityclerk.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public-1/reports/Executive%20Order%201985-85-1\\_0.pdf?VersionId=z\\_qy4b68LwhJHR.5payRmd35QROE.z7e](https://chicityclerk.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public-1/reports/Executive%20Order%201985-85-1_0.pdf?VersionId=z_qy4b68LwhJHR.5payRmd35QROE.z7e).

<sup>15</sup> Britannica, “People of Chicago,” <https://www.britannica.com/place/Chicago/People>.

<sup>16</sup> Amy Qin, WBEZ, *A Portrait of Immigrants in Chicago: Immigrant Population Reaches Its Highest Point in Nearly Two Decades*, Sept. 12, 2025, <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/09/12/chicago-immigrant-population-growth-trump-immigration-enforcement>.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

## Welcoming City Ordinances: Chicago, Cook County and Suburbs

Over 40 years ago, in 1985, Chicago Mayor Harold Washington signed an Executive Order prohibiting city agencies from requesting information about or investigating or assisting in the investigation of a person's citizenship or residency status, as well as prohibiting the dissemination such information unless required by law, and prohibiting the consideration of citizenship or residency status in hiring decisions or access to city services.<sup>20</sup> The provisions of the Executive Order were maintained by subsequent municipal administrations, and in 2006, the Chicago City Council codified the order in the Welcoming City Ordinance.<sup>21</sup>

The Welcoming City Ordinance recognizes the important goal of enhancing the city's relationship with immigrant communities.<sup>22</sup>

The City Council concluded that "the cooperation of all persons, both documented citizens and those without documentation status, is essential to achieve the city's goals of protecting life and property, preventing crime and resolving problems."<sup>23</sup> The City Council declared that "assistance from a person, whether documented or not, who is a victim of, or a witness to, a crime is important to promoting the safety of all its residents," and "the cooperation of the City's immigrant communities is essential to prevent and solve crimes and maintain public order, safety and security in the entire City."<sup>24</sup>

The Welcoming City Ordinance prohibits any city agent or agency from assisting in the investigation of the citizenship or immigration status of any person; disclosing information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any person; conditioning the provision of city benefits on an individual's citizenship or immigration status; arresting or detaining a person solely on the belief that the person is not present legally in the U.S., that the person has committed a civil immigration violation, or that an administrative warrant based solely on a violation of a civil immigration law has been issued; or permitting an ICE agent access to a person being detained, permitting an ICE officer to use city agency facilities for investigative purposes, or responding to ICE inquiries or communicate with ICE regarding a person's custody status or release date.<sup>25</sup>

Cook County<sup>26</sup> and other Illinois municipalities also have welcoming policies with similar provisions, including Berwyn,<sup>27</sup> Evanston,<sup>28</sup> Oak Park,<sup>29</sup> and Skokie,<sup>30</sup> among others. Several municipalities

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<sup>20</sup> City of Chicago, Executive Order 1985-1 (March 7, 1985).

<sup>21</sup> Coun. J. 3-29-06, p. 74325 (codified at Chicago, Munic. Code §2-173).

<sup>22</sup> Chicago, Munic. Code § 2-173-005.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> *Id. at.* 23-173-020, 030, 040, and 042.

<sup>26</sup> Cook County, Cook County Code, Ch. 46-37, *available at:*

[https://library.municode.com/il/cook\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIGEOR\\_CH46LAEN\\_ARTIISH\\_DIV1GE\\_SDIINGE\\_S46-37POREICDE](https://library.municode.com/il/cook_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIGEOR_CH46LAEN_ARTIISH_DIV1GE_SDIINGE_S46-37POREICDE).

<sup>27</sup> Berwyn, Ch. 620.20 *et. seq.*, *available at:* [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/berwyn/latest/berwyn\\_il/0-0-0-31641](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/berwyn/latest/berwyn_il/0-0-0-31641).

<sup>28</sup> Evanston, Evanston City Code of 2012 1-22-1 *et. seq.* (Evanston Welcoming City Ordinance), *available at:* [https://library.municode.com/il/evanston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT1GEAD\\_CH22WEOR](https://library.municode.com/il/evanston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT1GEAD_CH22WEOR).

<sup>29</sup> Oak Park, Oak Park Village Code, 13-7-1, *available at:* <https://www.oak-park.us/files/assets/oakpark/v1/community-relationshousing/oak-park-cares/2017-02-06-oak-park-welcoming-village-ordinance-1.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Village of Skokie, Code of Ordinances, Ch. 58-1 – 58-8, *available at:*

[https://library.municode.com/il/skokie/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=COOR\\_CH58HURE\\_ARTINGE\\_S58-7INRECIIMST](https://library.municode.com/il/skokie/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH58HURE_ARTINGE_S58-7INRECIIMST)

acted in direct response to Operation Midway Blitz by prohibiting the use of their property by federal agents for staging, assembling, storing equipment, or other activities for carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.<sup>31</sup>

## Illinois TRUST Act

The State of Illinois has also recognized the importance of trust and collaboration between law enforcement and immigrant communities. In 2017, under Republican Governor Bruce Rauner, the State of Illinois adopted the Illinois TRUST Act, 5 ILCS 805/1 et. seq.

The law is focused on promoting public safety and ensuring all members of the public, regardless of their immigration status, feel comfortable calling law enforcement to seek help, report crimes, and cooperate in investigations.

The TRUST Act prevents state and local law enforcement from assisting the federal government with civil immigration enforcement but allows coordination when there is a federal criminal warrant or when it is otherwise required by federal law.<sup>32</sup>

The Illinois Attorney General is authorized to conduct investigations and bring civil enforcement actions to ensure compliance with the TRUST Act.<sup>33</sup> As described by the Illinois Attorney General's Office in guidance to law enforcement agencies in Illinois, trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve is paramount.

"Promoting public safety requires assistance and cooperation from the community so that law enforcement can gather the information necessary to solve and deter crime... Building trust is particularly crucial in immigrant communities where residents may be reluctant to engage with their local police department if they are fearful that such contact could result in deportation for themselves, their family, or their neighbors. This is true of not only undocumented individuals who may be concerned about their own immigration status, but also U.S. citizens who may be worried about their parents, their children, or other members of their family who immigrated to the United States. With this goal in mind, Illinois law enforcement agencies are subject to the Illinois TRUST Act, which helps bolster community trust and cooperation by affirming that law enforcement agencies in Illinois are largely prohibited from participating in immigration enforcement."<sup>34</sup>

Studies have demonstrated that the theories underlying the TRUST Act and other welcoming jurisdiction policies are correct: the fear of immigration consequences deters undocumented

<sup>31</sup> See, e.g., City of Evanston, Resolution 93-R-25, (Oct. 20, 2025), available at: <https://cityofevanston.civicweb.net/document/431395/Resolution%2093-R-25.%20Prohibiting%20the%20Use%20of%20City.pdf?handle=EF661DA673504C1A8272EBFC992CDC84>; Cook County Board of Commissioners, Executive Order 2025-1 (Oct. 16, 2025), available at: <https://www.cookcountylil.gov/sites/g/files/ywwepo161/files/documents/2025-10/Executive%20Order%202025-1.pdf>; City Council of the City of Elgin, Resolution No. 25-196 (Nov. 19, 2025), available at: <https://elginil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/86761/RESOLUTION-PROHIBITING-THE-USE-OF-CITY-PROPERTY-FOR-FEDERAL-CIVIL-IMMIGRATION-ENFORCEMENT-ACTIVITIES>.

<sup>32</sup> 5 ILCS 805/15.

<sup>33</sup> Public Act 102-0234.

<sup>34</sup> Office of the Illinois Attorney General, "Guidance: Illinois Laws Governing Law Enforcement Interactions with Immigrant Communities," Updated 2025, available at: <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Page-Attachments/ImmigrationLawGuidancetoLawEnforcement.pdf>.

individuals from providing information to law enforcement<sup>35</sup> and crime is lower in jurisdictions with welcoming policies than those that do not have such policies.<sup>36</sup> These policies also allow law enforcement to focus their resources on investigating and arresting perpetrators of criminal violations rather than supporting federal immigration authorities.

## Texas-Directed Asylum Seeker Arrivals in Chicago (2022-2024)

From 2022 through 2024, an estimated 69,000 individuals arrived in Illinois who were fleeing their home countries due to persecution, war, economic collapse, natural disaster and other factors.<sup>37</sup> Many of these new arrivals were brought to Illinois by an initiative of Texas Governor Greg Abbott who, in August 2022, began chartering buses and planes to transport asylum seekers who had entered at the Texas and Mexico border to U.S. cities with welcoming policies.<sup>38</sup> These individuals had not necessarily been granted any type of permanent residency in the U.S., but they were processed by federal immigration officials at the U.S. border and permitted to remain legally in the U.S. pending the resolution of their immigration cases. According to data from the city of Chicago, 51,648 individuals requesting asylum arrived in Chicago via buses and airplanes sent by the State of Texas between August 2022 and December 2024.<sup>39</sup> This idea of flooding immigrant friendly localities with immigrants from other parts of the country had first been discussed as early as 2018 by then-White House Senior Adviser Stephen Miller, who reportedly discussed the idea of moving migrants who entered at the U.S. southern border to sanctuary cities.<sup>40</sup> The proposal was allegedly made to “alleviate a shortage of detention space” and to “send a message to democrats.”<sup>41</sup> ICE officials reportedly initially rejected the idea, but Governor Abbott nonetheless executed such a plan years later.

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<sup>35</sup> See, Nik Theodore, Dep’t of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago, “Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement,” May 2013, [https://greatcities.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Insecure\\_Communities\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://greatcities.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Insecure_Communities_Report_FINAL.pdf); Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities: Challenges, Promising Practices and Recommendations,” March 2009, <https://irp.cdn-website.com/25448aaa/files/uploaded/IPV-in-Immigrant-and-Refugee-Communities-Challenges-Promising-Practices-Recommendations.pdf>;

<sup>36</sup> Center for American Progress, “The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy,” Jan. 16, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>; American Immigration Council, “Debunking the Myth of Immigrants and Crime,” Oct. 2024, [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/debunking\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_immigrants\\_and\\_crime.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/debunking_the_myth_of_immigrants_and_crime.pdf); David K. Hausman, “Sanctuary policies reduce deportations without increasing crime,” PNAS vol. 117 no. 44 (Nov. 3, 2020), <https://www.pnas.org/doi/epdf/10.1073/pnas.2014673117>.

<sup>37</sup> Rob Paral, DePaul Migration Collaborative, “‘Building a Plane While It’s Flying’: Illinois Confronts a New Era of Forced Migration,” Apr. 2024, <https://robleparal.com/wp-content/uploads/Building-a-Plane-While-Its-Flying.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> Press Release, Office of the Texas Governor, “Governor Abbott Announces First Bus of Migrants Arrives in Chicago,” Aug. 31, 2022, <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-first-bus-of-migrants-arrives-in-chicago>.

<sup>39</sup> City of Chicago, New Arrivals Situational Awareness Dashboard, <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home/Dashboard.html> (accessed Dec. 18, 2025).

<sup>40</sup> Rachael Bade & Nick Miroff, *White House Proposed Releasing Immigrant Detainees In Sanctuary Cities Targeting Political Foes*, The Washington Post, Apr. 11, 2019, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/white-house-proposed-releasing-immigrant-detainees-in-sanctuary-cities-targeting-political-foes/2019/04/11/72839bc8-5c68-11e9-9625-01d48d50ef75\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/white-house-proposed-releasing-immigrant-detainees-in-sanctuary-cities-targeting-political-foes/2019/04/11/72839bc8-5c68-11e9-9625-01d48d50ef75_story.html).

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*

To support these new arrivals, the State of Illinois established emergency shelters and wraparound services, including resettlement resources, mental health support, and educational support.<sup>42</sup> A Landing Zone was established so that individuals were not dropped into the city without any resources and an Intake Center was created on-site to direct individuals to resources.<sup>43</sup> The State created an Asylum Seeker Emergency Rental Assistance Program<sup>44</sup> to help individuals find housing and partnered with the City of Chicago to establish the One System Initiative<sup>45</sup> to integrate new arrivals into preexisting housing support systems.

The increase in the number of individuals arriving in Chicago overlapped with the end of temporary restrictions on entry to the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic that were in place from 2020 until May 2023.<sup>46</sup> This prohibition on entry applied to individuals who would otherwise be eligible to make claims for asylum, effectively suspending all asylum screenings for a period of three years. Many of the individuals who sought asylum in the U.S., including those who were brought to Chicago by Governor Abbott, would have their lawful status revoked and become the targets of ICE and CBP enforcement raids when Donald Trump took office on January 20, 2025.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Press Release, Illinois Dep’t of Human Services, “Pritzker Administration Announces Additional State-Supported Shelters for New Arrivals,” June 25, 2024, <https://idhs.prezly.com/pritzker-administration-announces-additional-state-supported-shelters-for-new-arrivals>.

<sup>43</sup> NBC News Chicago, *Illinois To Launch New Intake Center, Shelter Site For Migrants Arriving In Chicago*, Jan. 4, 2024, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/illinois-to-launch-new-intake-center-shelter-site-for-migrants-arriving-in-chicago/3318040/>.

<sup>44</sup> Illinois Housing Development Authority, Request for Applications (RFA): Housing Stability Services for the Asylum Seeker Emergency Assistance Program (ASERAP), Feb. 2, 2023, [https://www.ihda.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/RFA\\_ASERAP\\_3.0\\_final-version\\_-2-2-2023.pdf](https://www.ihda.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/RFA_ASERAP_3.0_final-version_-2-2-2023.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> Press Release, Illinois Department of Human Services, “As New Phase of Unified Support for the Unhoused Begins, Little Village Shelter for New Arrivals Closes,” Oct. 10, 2024, <https://idhs.prezly.com/as-new-phase-of-unified-support-for-the-unhoused-begins-little-village-shelter-for-new-arrivals-closes>.

<sup>46</sup> Dep’t of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Notice of Order Under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service Act, Suspending Introduction of Certain Persons From Countries Where a Communicable Disease Exists, 85 Fed. Reg. 17060 (March 26, 2020).

<sup>47</sup> Shia Kapos, *Immigrants Transformed Chicago’s South Side. Trump’s Crackdown Is Pushing Them Underground*, Politico, [https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/12/immigrants-chicago-south-side-trump-crackdown-underground-00224319?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/12/immigrants-chicago-south-side-trump-crackdown-underground-00224319?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

## Operation Midway Blitz: Background and Context

Operation Midway Blitz, conducted by ICE, launched on September 8, 2025,<sup>48</sup> and Operation At Large, conducted by CBP, began on September 16, 2025.<sup>49</sup> According to DHS, more than 4,500 individuals were arrested in Illinois as part of this enhanced enforcement campaign.<sup>50</sup> The Commission's future hearings and reports will examine the conduct of federal immigration agents during Operation Midway Blitz as well as the claims made about the reasons for and impact of the enforcement campaign.

Foreshadowing of Operation Midway Blitz began even before President Trump took office for his second term. A continual escalation of public statements and actions to sow fear and polarization would lay the groundwork for Operation Midway Blitz. These actions suggest an attempt by Administration officials to pressure, direct and empower federal immigration agents to use aggressive tactics without consequence, while also using misleading and emotionally-charged narratives, which stoked fear amongst immigrant communities with the goal of coercing individuals to 'voluntarily' self-deport.<sup>51</sup>

An extensive timeline of significant events leading up to the beginning of Operation Midway Blitz is attached to this Initial Status Report in Appendix A and available on the Commission's website.

### The Trump Administration Has Been Focused on Immigration Enforcement in Chicago Since 2017

Chicago has been a target of President Trump since his first term in office. In 2017, the Trump Administration's Department of Justice (DOJ) attempted to withhold Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds for local law enforcement from welcoming jurisdictions, including Chicago and Illinois.<sup>52</sup> Even though federal district courts ruled that the withholding of those funds was unlawful, the DOJ

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<sup>48</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., "ICE Launches Operation Midway Blitz in Honor of Katie Abraham to Target Criminal Illegal Aliens Terrorizing Americans in Sanctuary Illinois," Sept. 8, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/08/ice-launches-operation-midway-blitz-honor-katie-abraham-target-criminal-illegal>.

<sup>49</sup> Collectively, the activities of federal officials conducting immigration enforcement in Chicago in the fall of 2025 are often referred to as "Operation Midway Blitz." Although U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement technically announced and initiated two different missions, federal government officials and the public routinely refer to them collectively as "Operation Midway Blitz." The Commission will try, where possible, to distinguish whether activity was conducted by ICE or CBP officials, however, a lack of transparency from the federal government often makes it difficult to distinguish. Similarly, as federal agents often concealed their identity, it can be difficult to identify under which authority the agents were acting.

<sup>50</sup> Andrew Carter et. al, *64 Days in Chicago: The Story of Operation Midway Blitz*, Chicago Tribune, Dec. 28, 2025, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/12/28/chicago-immigration-operation-midway-blitz-2/>.

<sup>51</sup> Amy Qin and Sophie Sherry, *Broadview Detainees During Operation Midway Blitz Were Self-Deporting At Alarming Rates, Analysis Finds*, Chicago Sun-Times, Dec. 28, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/12/28/broadview-detainees-operation-midway-blitz-self-deporting-high-rates-analysis-finds>.

<sup>52</sup> Congressional Research Service, *DOJ Grant Conditions Target Sanctuary Jurisdictions: Litigation Update*, May 4, 2018, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10126>.

attempted to withhold them again in 2018<sup>53</sup> and in 2025.<sup>54</sup> The DOJ has continued to go on the offensive, filing three lawsuits in 2025 challenging Illinois statutes that the DOJ alleges impede immigration enforcement.<sup>55</sup>

In May 2018, ICE targeted Chicago in “Operation Keep Safe,” during which 156 individuals were arrested.<sup>56</sup> Like Operation Midway Blitz, Operation Keep Safe involved “indiscriminate enforcement actions, through traffic stops, home raids, and other sweeps, rounding up likely hundreds of individuals in the greater Chicagoland area, many of whom had no prior encounters with ICE and whom ICE arrested without a warrant.”<sup>57</sup> Operation Keep Safe led to the entry of a consent decree in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (“*Nava Consent Decree*”),<sup>58</sup> which required ICE to issue and train officers on a nationwide policy governing warrantless arrests and vehicle stops.<sup>59</sup>

Even prior to Operation Midway Blitz, President Trump had threatened to send federal law enforcement to Chicago. In July 2020, the Trump Administration announced it was sending federal agents into U.S. cities to help address crime despite the federal administration not consulting with local leaders who, in many cases, objected to the deployment.<sup>60</sup>

Before President Trump’s second inauguration, Trump Administration officials clearly stated they would be prioritizing Chicago for its mass deportation efforts. At an event in Chicago on December 9, 2024, President-elect Trump’s designated “Border Czar,” Tom Homan, told the audience “We’re going to start right here in Chicago, Illinois … January 21st, you’re going to look for a lot of ICE agents in your city looking for criminals and gang members. Count on it. It will happen.”<sup>61</sup> In one interview, Homan stated that arrested individuals who posed safety threats would be ICE’s priority, but “when we find him, he may be with others. And unlike the last administration, we’re not going to tell ICE officers not to arrest an illegal alien … So, sanctuary cities will get exactly what they don’t want, more agents in their neighborhoods and more collateral arrests.”<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> *City of Chicago v. Sessions*, 888 F.3d 272 (7th Cir. 2018); Compl. ¶ 24, *State of Illinois v. Barr*, 1:19-cv-03461 (N.D. Ill. May 23, 2019); WTTW, *Attorney General Madigan Sues DOJ Over Withheld Federal Funding*, July 13, 2018, <https://news.wttw.com/2018/07/13/attorney-general-madigan-sues-doj-over-withheld-federal-funding>; Press Release, Office of Illinois Attorney General, “Attorney General Raoul Secures \$6.6 Million in Federal Funding for Illinois Law Enforcement,” Oct. 25, 2019, <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/dA/19818fe561/201910-25%206.6%20MILLION%20IN%20FEDERAL%20FUNDING%20FOR%20ILLINOIS%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> Attorney General of the U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Memo. for all Dep’t Emp., “Sanctuary Jurisdiction Directives,” Feb. 5, 2025, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388531/dl?inline>.

<sup>55</sup> *U.S. v. State of Illinois*, et. al., 1:25-cv-1285 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2025); *U.S. v. State of Illinois*, et. al., 1:25-cv-04811 (N.D. Ill. May 1, 2025); *U.S. v. State of Illinois*, et. al., 3:25-cv-1691 (S.D. Ill. Sept. 2, 2025).

<sup>56</sup> Press Release, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “ICE arrests 156 criminal aliens and immigration violators during Operation Keep Safe in Chicago Area,” May 25, 2018, <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-156-criminal-aliens-and-immigration-violators-during-operation-keep-safe>.

<sup>57</sup> Compl., *Nava v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 18, 2018).

<sup>58</sup> Settlement Agreement and Release, *Nava v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 30, 2021).

<sup>59</sup> *Id.* at Appendix A.

<sup>60</sup> Peter Baker et. al., *Trump Threatens To Send Federal Law Enforcement Forces To More Cities*, The New York Times, July 20, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/20/us/politics/trump-chicago-portland-federal-agents.html>.

<sup>61</sup> CBS News Chicago, *President-Elect Trump’s Plans For Mass Deportations*, Dec. 10, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/video/president-elect-trumps-plans-for-mass-deportations/>.

<sup>62</sup> Adam Shaw, *Trump Border Czar Tom Homan Reveals ICE Teams Are Already Arresting ‘Public Safety Threats*, Fox News, Jan. 21, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-border-czar-tom-homan-reveals-ice-teams-already-arresting-public-safety-threats>.

In January 2025, three days before the President was inaugurated for a second term, reports surfaced that the new administration was “planning a large-scale immigration raid in Chicago next week … the first move in President-elect Donald Trump’s promised mass deportation campaign.”<sup>63</sup>

As information became public, Administration officials claimed that officer safety had been compromised and that operational details for the mission had not been finalized.<sup>64</sup> The details, however, might not have been the priority; as noted by The New York Times:

“For Mr. Trump, the optics of immigration agents sporting ballistic gear and arresting immigrants with uncertain or contested status in a Democratic-led city could be enough. The incoming administration is eager to find ways to send a message that it is cracking down on undocumented immigrants and punishing so-called sanctuary cities – communities like Chicago that refuse to hand over immigrants detained by the police to federal immigration authorities.”<sup>65</sup>

Within days of the inauguration, the Trump Administration initiated their first major immigration enforcement campaign, which occurred in Chicago with so-called “Operation Safeguard” in January 2025.

## President Trump’s 2025 “Mass Deportation” Efforts Focus on Increasing Arrests and Detention

President Trump issued several executive orders on immigration on the first day of his second term.<sup>66</sup>

Among these Executive Orders, he:

- Directed the withholding of federal funds from sanctuary jurisdictions,
- Directed federal agencies to stop recognizing birthright citizenship,
- Adopted more stringent vetting procedures to “ensure the proper assimilation of lawful immigrants” and “promote a united American identity,”
- Suspended refugee admissions to the U.S., and
- Expanded the use of detention and expedited removal processes, revoked policies for immigrants from certain countries that had allowed them to enter the U.S. while awaiting determinations and reinstated the “Remain in Mexico Policy.”

Trump Administration officials reportedly exerted early pressure on ICE and CBP field offices to increase the number of individuals arrested for immigration violations, demanding in January that

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<sup>63</sup> Michelle Hackman et. al., *Trump to Begin Large-Scale Deportations Tuesday*, The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 17, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-to-begin-large-scale-deportations-tuesday-e1bd89bd>.

<sup>64</sup> Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump’s Deportation Plan Could Start Next Week in Chicago*, The New York Times, Jan. 17, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-raids-chicago.html>.

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

<sup>66</sup> Exec. Order 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 29, 2025); Exec. Order 14160, 90 Fed. Reg. 8449 (Jan. 29, 2025); Exec. Order 14161, 90 Fed. Reg. 8451 (Jan. 30, 2025); Exec. Order 14163, 90 Fed. Reg. 8459 (Jan. 30, 2025); Exec. Order 14164, 90 Fed. Reg. 8463 (Jan. 30, 2025); Exec. Order 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 30, 2025); Exec. Order 14167, 90 Fed. Reg. 8613 (Jan. 30, 2025); Exec. Order 14157, 90 Fed. Reg. 8439 (Jan. 29, 2025); Procl. 10886, 90 Fed. Reg. 8327 (Jan. 29, 2025). See *Appendix A* for summary of each executive order.

ICE increase arrests to at least 1,200 to 1,500 per day, and threatening to hold managers accountable for missing those targets.<sup>67</sup> In May, White House officials were reportedly frustrated that the number of deportations was lagging behind the average number during the Biden Administration, and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem reportedly threatened to fire the bottom 10% of regional ICE officials with an insufficient number of arrests.<sup>68</sup> Miller reportedly then said the White House was looking to “set a goal of a minimum of 3,000 arrests for ICE every day and President Trump is going to keep pushing to get that number up higher each and every day.”<sup>69</sup> While the number of individuals being arrested was increasing, the Trump administration fired nearly 100 immigration judges causing more backlog in immigration courts.<sup>70</sup>

Senior ICE officials directed agents to pursue “collateral arrests,” which are warrantless arrests of individuals whom ICE agents encounter when they are trying to execute an arrest warrant, even if they were not the subject of the warrant.<sup>71</sup> One senior official reportedly urged agents to “turn the creative knob up to 11 and push the envelope,” and “if it involves handcuffs on wrists, it’s probably worth pursuing.”<sup>72</sup> Although the *Nava Consent Decree* governing warrantless arrests remains in effect, on June 11, ICE rescinded its nationwide policy outlining the procedures agents were supposed to follow for warrantless arrests.<sup>73</sup> DHS also lifted restrictions on executing arrests at courthouses, schools, houses of worship, hospitals and other sensitive locations.<sup>74</sup> Iterations of such a policy had been in place since 2011.<sup>75</sup>

On top of increasing the number of people arrested, DHS took several actions to increase the number of individuals who would remain in detention after arrest, pending a decision in their immigration case, rather than release them on parole or bond. To accomplish this, DHS expanded

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<sup>67</sup> Nick Miroff and Maria Sachetti, *Trump Officials Issue Quotas To ICE Officers To Ramp Up Arrests*, The Washington Post, Jan. 26, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/01/26/ice-arrests-raids-trump-quota/>.

<sup>68</sup> Ted Hesson, *Trump Administration Ousts Top ICE Officials Amid Migrant Arrest Push*, Reuters, May 29, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-administration-ousts-top-ice-officials-amid-migrant-arrest-push-2025-05-29/>.

<sup>69</sup> Kyle Cheney & Josh Gerstein, *DOJ Is Walking Back The White House’s Goal To Arrest 3,000 Immigrants Per Day*, Politico, Aug. 3, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/08/03/white-house-doj-immigration-quota-mismatch-00490406>.

<sup>70</sup> Emily Ngo, *Immigration Courts Thrown Into Chaos As Trump Administration Purges Dozens Of Judges*, Politico, Dec. 6, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/12/06/trump-immigration-court-judge-purges-00679376>.

<sup>71</sup> José Olivares, *US Immigration Officers Ordered To Arrest More People Even Without Warrants*, The Guardian, June 4, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/04/immigration-officials-increased-detentions-collateral-arrests>.

<sup>72</sup> *Id.*

<sup>73</sup> Mem. Opinion and Order, *Nava v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 7, 2025) at 4.

<sup>74</sup> Benjamine C. Huffman, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Memorandum for Caleb Vitello, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Pete R. Flores, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, “Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas,” Jan. 20, 2025, available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/25\\_0120\\_S1\\_enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/25_0120_S1_enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf).

<sup>75</sup> John Morton, Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Memorandum for Field Office Directors, Special Agents in Charge, and Chief Counsel, “Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations,” Oct. 24, 2011, available at: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>. Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Memorandum to Tae D. Johnson, Acting Director U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement et. al., “Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas,” Oct. 27, 2021, available at: [https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21\\_1027\\_opa\\_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf). At least one district court has enjoined ICE from implementing these directives with respect houses of worship unless conducted pursuant to an administrative or judicial warrant, and litigation on that policy continues. Mem. Opinion, *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security*, 8:25-cv-00243-TDC (Feb. 24, 2025).

the use of expedited removal,<sup>76</sup> which permits DHS to remove an individual from the U.S. without a hearing or further review, without a right to counsel, without a hearing in immigration court or other appeal, and subjects them to mandatory detention with limited opportunities for parole.<sup>77</sup> DHS also revoked parole for several categories of individuals (such as certain individuals from Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba and Venezuela), which meant these individuals, who had previously been permitted to enter and remain legally in the U.S. while their permanent status was reviewed, were now subject to detention and deportation.<sup>78</sup> DHS also limited the use of individualized parole decisions based on humanitarian grounds.<sup>79</sup> Individuals who had been given permission to remain in the U.S., subject to certain conditions of their parole, began to be arrested at mandatory routine check-ins at ICE field offices<sup>80</sup> or immigration court<sup>81</sup> even if they had been complying with those conditions.

DHS also adopted a novel legal interpretation of the Immigration and Nationality Act that effectively created mandatory detention for people waiting for a hearing before an immigration judge. Previously, many categories of people waiting for a hearing had been eligible for release on bond.<sup>82</sup> Many individuals subject to mandatory detention abandoned their rights to apply under existing immigration law for a form of ‘relief from deportation,’ which could in some cases have allowed them to legally remain in the U.S. to support their U.S. citizen family members. More than 300 federal district court judges have rejected DHS’ interpretation of the law, and over 1,000 individuals who were subject to mandatory detention pursuant to DHS’s new mandatory detention policy have been granted release by federal judges.<sup>83</sup> Nevertheless, the administration has continued to hold people in detention pending resolution of their immigration cases, which can take years.

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<sup>76</sup> Notice, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal, 90 Fed. Reg. 8139 (Jan. 24, 2025), available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-24/pdf/2025-01720.pdf>. Additional guidance was issued to CBP and ICE agents on January 23, 2025, authorizing DHS office to pause, modify or terminate any parole program and providing guidance on how to exercise enforcement discretion for parole. Benjamin C. Huffman, Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Memorandum for Caleb Vitello, Acting Director U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement et. al., “Guidance Regarding How to Exercise Enforcement Discretion,” Jan. 23, 2025, available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25\\_0123\\_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25_0123_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf).

<sup>77</sup> Congressional Research Service, *The Department of Homeland Security’s Authority to Expand Expedited Removal*, (Updated Sept. 18, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10336>

<sup>78</sup> Benjamin C. Huffman, Acting Secretary U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Memorandum for Caleb Vitello, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement et. al., “Guidance Regarding How to Exercise Enforcement Discretion,” Jan. 23, 2025, available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25\\_0123\\_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25_0123_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf).

<sup>79</sup> *Id.*

<sup>80</sup> Charlie De Mar and Darius Johnson, *ICE Agents Detain Several People At Immigration Supervision Program Site In Chicago*, CBS Chicago, June 5, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/ice-agents-arrests-south-loop-immigration-supervision-program/>.

<sup>81</sup> PBS News Hour, ‘*Deportation Trap*’: Immigration Agents Arresting Migrants At Mandatory Court Check-Ins, Nov. 24, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/deportation-trap-immigration-agents-arresting-migrants-at-mandatory-court-check-ins>.

<sup>82</sup> *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I&N Dec. 66 (BIA 2025), available at: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/media/1400431/dl?inline>; National Immigration Project, “Community Explainer: What’s Happening with Immigration Court Arrests and Bonds,” June 2025, [https://nipnlg.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/2025\\_NIPNLG-Courthouse.pdf](https://nipnlg.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/2025_NIPNLG-Courthouse.pdf). This practice was enjoined by a federal district court in November 2025. ACLU, et. al, “PRACTICE ADVISORY – Seeking Bond Hearings for *Maldonado Bautista* Class Members – Those Who Entered Without Inspection and Are Subject to *Yajure-Hurtado*,” Dec. 3, 2025, [https://nwirp.org/uploads/2025/Maldonado%20Bautista%20Practice%20Advisory\\_12%203%202025.pdf](https://nwirp.org/uploads/2025/Maldonado%20Bautista%20Practice%20Advisory_12%203%202025.pdf).

<sup>83</sup> Kyle Cheney, *Hundreds Of Judges Reject Trump’s Mandatory Detention Policy, With No End In Sight*, Politico, Jan. 5, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/05/trump-administration-immigrants-mandatory-detention-00709494>.

DHS also took steps to make detention unbearable. They increased the number of hours that detainees could be held at ICE holding facilities from 12 to 72 hours,<sup>84</sup> even though such facilities are not equipped for long-term stays.<sup>85</sup> This change in June 2025 coincided with an increase in the number of detentions at ICE facilities from 19,000 in May to 58,000 by June.<sup>86</sup>

Regarding the ICE holding facility in Broadview, Illinois, U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Gentleman issued a temporary restraining order in response to evidence that detainees were denied sufficient food and water, access to showers or changes of clothing, access to legal counsel, and adequate meals and medical care.<sup>87</sup>

## Federal Use of Social Media and Public Messaging Forecast What Would Occur in Operation Midway Blitz

Throughout 2025, and as would become commonplace throughout Operation Midway Blitz, DHS used social media and video to promote and defend its actions. On January 26, 2025, ICE began a three-day enhanced targeted operation in Chicago known as "Operation Safeguard."<sup>88</sup> Television personality "Dr. Phil" McGraw accompanied "Border Czar" Tom Homan to broadcast live while federal agents made arrests.<sup>89</sup> The purported purpose of the operation was to target about 300 undocumented immigrants with criminal records.<sup>90</sup>

Here is how Dr. Phil described the operation:

"It's a pretty high-risk mission that we're going on. This truly is a targeted ICE mission because they're not sweeping neighborhoods like people are trying to imply. I know this because I've been involved heading into this. They've identified 270 high value targets and what I mean by that is these are known criminals and terrorists. We're talking about murders, child traffickers, child rapists, we're talking about bad actors, both in the countries they've come from and since they've been in the U.S. Some of these people have 12, 15 arrests, indictments, convictions, some in their home countries and they've come here but yet they're on the streets. And that's who ICE is targeting to bring out of these communities.

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<sup>84</sup> Monica S. Burke, Assistant Director, Custody Management, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Memorandum for All ERO Field Office Directors, "Nationwide Hold Room Waiver," June 24, 2025, available at: <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mdd.582507/gov.uscourts.mdd.582507.40.3.pdf>.

<sup>85</sup> *Id.*

<sup>86</sup> Akash Pillai et. al., *Health Issues for Immigrants in Detention Centers*, Kaiser Family Foundation, Sept. 30, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/health-issues-for-immigrants-in-detention-centers/>.

<sup>87</sup> Temporary Restraining Order, *Moreno Gonzalez v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-13323 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 5, 2025), available at: <https://www.aclu-il.org/cases/moreno-gonzalez-v-noem/>.

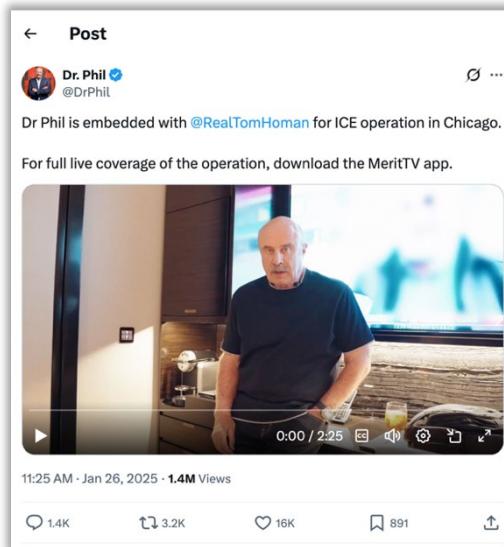
<sup>88</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (@ICEgov), X (Jan. 26, 2025 12:09 PM), <https://x.com/ICEgov/status/1883577941210062880>.

<sup>89</sup> Charles Thrush, *ICE Targets Hundreds of People for Arrest in Chicago – With Dr. Phil Broadcasting Live*, Block Club Chicago, Jan. 27, 2025, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/01/27/ice-arrests-dozens-in-chicago-as-part-of-targeted-operation-with-dr-phil-broadcasting-live/>.

<sup>90</sup> *Id.*

So, we're going after specific targets, not just sweeping neighborhoods and picking up anyone with a can, anyone who looks like they don't belong here.”<sup>91</sup>

Dr. Phil repeatedly blamed welcoming city policies for ICE immigration raids that increased the risk to law enforcement members and individuals.<sup>92</sup>



Source: Dr. Phil (@DrPhil), X (Jan 26, 2025, 11:25 AM).

“Later today actually, we’re going to have to go after these people out in a free environment, [where] an apartment complex or an apartment project where there are a lot of civilians around. And if they resist, if they open fire on these agents who have to return fire, then people can get caught in the crossfire, if a car chase ensues things can happen where people are put at risk. If they’re turned over in jail, all of that goes away.”<sup>93</sup>

Dr. Phil’s videos promoted the Trump Administration’s political opposition to sanctuary city policies more than transparency about the operations.<sup>94</sup> In remarks to federal officers preparing to engage in operations, alongside then Deputy Assistant Attorney General Emil Bove, Homan told ICE agents that Dr. Phil’s cameras are there because he has to “send them to POTUS sometime this morning,” and they are going to “show the Mayor of this city that sanctuary city policies don’t work.”<sup>95</sup> Dr. Phil told ICE agents “we’re here to tell your story and have your back.”<sup>96</sup> Homan said,

<sup>91</sup> Dr. Phil (@DrPhil), X (Jan 26, 2025, 11:25 AM), <https://x.com/drphil/status/1883566981468827965?s=46&t=Qwv1FfR8xhc1le19fpSDUw>.

<sup>92</sup> Dr. Phil (@DrPhil), X (Jan. 25, 2025 2:44 PM), <https://x.com/DrPhil/status/1883616999575851514>.

<sup>93</sup> Dr. Phil (@DrPhil), X (Jan. 26, 2025 12:25 PM), <https://x.com/DrPhil/status/1883581989019632094>.

<sup>94</sup> Dr. Phil (@DrPhil), X (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://x.com/DrPhil/status/1886965476661559306>.

<sup>95</sup> *Id.*

<sup>96</sup> *Id.*

"We control the narrative. The left's gonna come at us. They already are. Right? I'm the most hated man in America; I don't give a shit. But they're gonna come after us, they're gonna try to control the narrative like they did during Zero Tolerance. We're controlling the narrative. We're gonna show the American people exactly what we're doing. The worst first and we're gonna prove that today. So, Dr. Phil is gonna help spread that message. So, he's a friend here today."<sup>97</sup>

Between January 20 and January 30, 2025, at most around 50 people were arrested in Chicago.<sup>98</sup> Meanwhile, in other parts of the country, so-called "collateral arrests" during militarized immigrant enforcement missions were increasing.<sup>99</sup> U.S. District Court Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong described immigration raids in Los Angeles when she issued a temporary restraining order against the federal government:

"Since they began on June 6, 2025, federal immigration raids have led to the arrest of over 1,500 people. Agents and officers approach suddenly and in large numbers in military style or SWAT clothing, heavily armed with weapons displayed, masked, and with their vest displaying a generic "POLICE" patch (if any display at all). Agents typically position themselves around individuals, aggressively engage them, and/or shout commands, making it nearly impossible for individuals to decline to answer their questions. When individuals have tried to avoid an encounter with agents and officers, they have been followed and pushed to the ground, sometimes even beaten, and then taken away. These incidents have been widely reported in the news. Defendants have a policy and practice of effectuating warrantless arrests without making an individualized flight risk determination. Defendants also have a policy and practice of not identifying themselves or explaining the basis for an arrest upon taking someone into custody. Agents and officers often show up masked, without any visible badges or insignia indicating what agency they work for, and have refused to identify themselves when asked."<sup>100</sup>

Judge Frimpong's order held that federal agents had repeatedly violated Angelenos' constitutional rights and explicitly prohibited the federal government from stopping individuals based solely on factors such as their apparent race or ethnicity, speaking Spanish or speaking English with an accent, their presence at a particular location, or the type of their work.<sup>101</sup> The U.S. Supreme Court disagreed, staying Judge Frimpong's order in a shadow docket decision on September 8, 2025, and effectively permitting the continued use of such tactics.<sup>102</sup> In a concurring opinion accompanying the decision, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh wrote that those factors could justify a brief stop by immigration agents given that,

"... there is an extremely high number and percentage of illegal immigrants in the Los Angeles area; that those individuals tend to gather in certain locations to seek daily work;

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<sup>97</sup> *Id.*

<sup>98</sup> Mike Dumke, *ICE Arrested Nearly 400 In Chicago, Nearby States in the Days After Trump's Inauguration: Records*, Block Club Chicago, Sept. 16, 2025, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/09/16/ice-arrested-nearly-400-in-chicago-nearby-states-in-the-days-after-trumps-inauguration-records/>.

<sup>99</sup> Bill Hutchinson, *LA Protests Timeline: How ICE Raids Sparked Demonstrations And Trump To Send In The Military*, ABC News, June 11, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-ice-raids-sparked-la-protests-prompted-trump/story?id=122688437>.

<sup>100</sup> Order Granting Pls' Ex Parte Applications for Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause Regarding Preliminary Injunction at 6-7, *Perdomo v. Noem*, 2:25-cv-05605-MEM-SP (C.D. Cal. July 11, 2025).

<sup>101</sup> *Id.* at 49-50.

<sup>102</sup> Order on Application for Stay, *Noem v. Perdomo*, No. 25A169, 2025 WL 2585637 at \*1, (U.S. Sept. 8, 2025), available at: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169\\_5h25.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf).

that those individuals often work in certain kinds of jobs, such as day labor, landscaping, agriculture, and construction ... and that many of those illegally in the Los Angeles area come from Mexico or Central America and do not speak much English.”<sup>103</sup>

In response, DHS correctly called the decision an unmitigated victory for the federal government and proclaimed that “DHS law enforcement will continue to FLOOD THE ZONE in Los Angeles.”<sup>104</sup> These practices – broadcasting immigration raids to promote anti-sanctuary city propaganda and using racial profiling to justify stops – would become centerpieces of Operation Midway Blitz.<sup>105</sup> And the notion expressed by Dr. Phil – that the risks created by the immigration raids would disappear if only sanctuary cities would change their policies – was later articulated by U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi in a letter to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, demanding that the State cooperate with the Administration’s immigration efforts in order to “bring back law and order to Minnesota.”<sup>106</sup>

## Federal Officials Created an Environment to Heighten Fear, Suppress Opposition and Encourage Self-Deportation

Actions by federal officials seemed designed to antagonize those in opposition to the Trump Administration’s position on immigration. For example, Secretary Noem held a press conference in Springfield, Illinois to promote the Administration’s immigration enforcement policies on the same day as the annual Latino Unity Day, a gathering of nearly 1,000 Latinos and allies in the Illinois State capitol.<sup>107</sup> On her visit, Secretary Noem visited an ICE field office where she was photographed personally questioning two men who had been detained by ICE that morning.<sup>108</sup>

As public opposition to DHS’ presence in Chicago grew, Secretary Noem and other federal officials conflated public protest and violence to justify the use of force by federal agents. Public protests at ICE’s Broadview holding facility began around September 5,<sup>109</sup> and continued to grow as the number of federal agents and detainees at the facility increased. In a ‘pep talk’ outside the facility on October 3, 2025, Secretary Noem stood alongside Commander Bovino preparing federal agents to initiate arrests of public protesters: “We’re going to go hard. We’re going to hammer these guys that are advocating for violence against the American people...We’re not taking this anymore. The President’s sick of it, I’m sick of it. And we’re going to give you guys all the authority that you need

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<sup>103</sup> *Id.*

<sup>104</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (Sept. 8, 2025, 11:56 AM), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1965096915319902465>.

<sup>105</sup> Laura Rodríguez Presa et. al., *Latino US citizens racially profiled by federal immigration agents in Chicago: ‘I felt like a piece of trash,’* Chicago Tribune, Nov. 15, 2025, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/11/15/latino-us-citizens-racially-profiled-immigration-chicago/>.

<sup>106</sup> Letter from U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, January 24, 2026, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2026/01/24/us/pam-bondi-walz-doc.html>.

<sup>107</sup> Press Release, Latino Policy Forum, “Illinois Community and Government Leaders Deliver Powerful Message of Unity and Resistance in Springfield After Cruel and Gratuitous DHS Press Event,” May 7, 2025, <https://latinopolICYFORUM.org/illinois-leaders-deliver-powerful-message-of-unity-and-resistance/>.

<sup>108</sup> Chip Mitchell, *What’s Known About Springfield Men Told By Homeland Security Chief Kristi Noem They Were Being Deported*, WBEZ, May 9, 2025, <https://www.wbez.org/politics/2025/05/09/two-springfield-men-homeland-security-chief-kristi-noem-deported>.

<sup>109</sup> Selena Kuznikov, *Demonstrators Block Entrance At Broadview ICE Facility: ‘They Know Chicago Doesn’t Want ICE In Our City’*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 5, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/05/ice-broadview-immigration-detention-center-enforcement-trump>.

to go out and arrest these individuals who are advocating for violence against you.”<sup>110</sup> Commander Bovino then added, “State instrument’s a hard power. You’re going to be put into full effect … That crowd there is an unsafe crowd.”<sup>111</sup>

In February 2025, Secretary Noem announced a nationwide ad campaign “warning illegal aliens to leave our country NOW or face deportation with the ability to return to the US. This serves as a strong warning to criminal illegal aliens to not come to America. If they do, they will be hunted down and deported.”<sup>112</sup> This ad campaign coincided with the launch of the CBP Home App to encourage individuals to self-deport. In launching the app, Secretary Noem warned “If they don’t, we will find them, we will deport them, and they will never return.”<sup>113</sup> In June, DHS adopted a rule to impose fines of \$988 per day for each day that an individual did not self-deport after an order of removal,<sup>114</sup> and had reportedly assessed \$6 billion in such fines by August.<sup>115</sup> This was coupled with “incentives” like a \$1,000 cash payment, forgiveness of fines, free flights, and the possibility of returning to the U.S. if individuals agreed to self-deport.<sup>116</sup> Individuals who agreed to deportation, however, have reported that they never received the money that DHS promised<sup>117</sup> and immigration experts have questioned whether an ‘ability to return’ is an illusory promise under current immigration law.<sup>118</sup>



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Press Photo Release, March 26, 2025.

<sup>110</sup> Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson), X (Oct. 3, 2025, 1:05 PM), <https://x.com/bennyjohnson/status/1974174065985470970>.

<sup>111</sup> *Id.*

<sup>112</sup> Secretary Kristi Noem (@Sec\_Noem), X (Feb. 17, 2025, 7:44 PM): [https://x.com/Sec\\_Noem/status/1891664961731957035](https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1891664961731957035).

<sup>113</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. “DHS Launches CBP Home App with Self-Deport Reporting Feature,” March 10, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/03/10/dhs-launches-cbp-home-app-self-deport-reporting-feature>.

<sup>114</sup> Imposition and Collection of Civil Penalties for Certain Immigration-Related Violations, 90 Fed. Reg. 27439, June 27, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/27/2025-11965/imposition-and-collection-of-civil-penalties-for-certain-immigration-related-violations>.

<sup>115</sup> Alex Woodward, *Trump Team Has Fined Immigrants Who Didn’t Self-Deport \$6 Billion — And Now It’s Coming To Collect*, Independent, August 27, 2025, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/migrants-self-deport-fines-trump-administration-b2815156.html>.

<sup>116</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Sec., “CBP Home: Assistance to Voluntarily Self-Deport,” accessed Jan. 9, 2026, <https://www.dhs.gov/cbphome>; Dep’t of Homeland Sec., “Increased Incentives: DHS Now Offering \$3k Holiday Stipend Through the End of the Year via the CBP Home App for Illegal Aliens to Leave Now,” Dec. 22, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/22/increased-incentives-dhs-now-offering-3k-holiday-stipend-through-end-year-cbp-home>.

<sup>117</sup> Delaney Nolan, ‘They Tricked Me’: Migrants Were Promised \$1,000 To Voluntarily Leave The U.S. Some Never Received It, The Guardian, Dec. 18, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/18/migrants-self-deportation-trump-immigration>.

<sup>118</sup> Jamiles Lartey & Shannon Heffernan, *The Feds Are Offering Migrants Cash To Self-Deport. Lawyers Call These Incentives Misleading.*, The Marshall Project, June 14, 2025, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/06/14/ice-immigration-dhs-deportation-facts>.

Images and messaging from federal agencies and officials also highlighted the harsh conditions that individuals were placed in after they were arrested by ICE or CBP. DHS began detaining immigrants at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station prior to their deportation and released photos of the first individuals flown to the base being escorted off a military airplane along with a statement that “President Donald Trump has been very clear: Guantanamo Bay will hold the worst of the worst.”<sup>119</sup>

In March and April, more than 200 Venezuelan deportees were sent to a notorious mega-prison in El Salvador known as CECOT, where Human Rights Watch found they were subject to “constant beatings,” sexual abuse, and other forms of mistreatment.<sup>120</sup>

And in June, construction began on “Alligator Alcatraz” in the Florida Everglades to serve as a detention facility for thousands of detainees.<sup>121</sup> DHS’ use of images of “Alligator Alcatraz”<sup>122</sup> and



Source: Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (@DHSgov), X (June 28, 2025, 1:52 PM).

<sup>119</sup> Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security, “Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity,” Jan. 29, 2025, available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/expanding-migrant-operations-center-at-naval-station-guantanamo-bay-to-full-capacity/>; Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., “PHOTO RELEASE: DHS releases images of the First Flight of Criminal Aliens to Guantanamo Bay,” Feb. 4, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/04/dhs-releases-images-first-flight-criminal-aliens-guantanamo-bay>.

<sup>120</sup> Human Rights Watch, ‘*You Have Arrived in Hell*,’ Nov. 12, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/11/12/you-have-arrived-in-hell/torture-and-other-abuses-against-venezuelans-in-el>.

<sup>121</sup> Mike Schneider, Associated Press, *Alligator Alcatraz Detainees Given Color-Coded Uniforms, 5:30 A.M. Breakfast And Strict Rules*, PBS News, Oct. 1, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/alligator-alcatraz-detainees-given-color-coded-uniforms-530-a-m-breakfast-and-strict-rules>.

<sup>122</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (@DHSgov), X (June 28, 2025 1:52 PM), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1939034194979455282>; see also, Lee Moran, *Kristi Noem’s DHS Torched Over Absolutely Wild AI Post Promoting ‘Alligator Alcatraz’*, Huff Post June 30, 2025, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/kristi-noem-dhs-torched-over-075804527.html>.

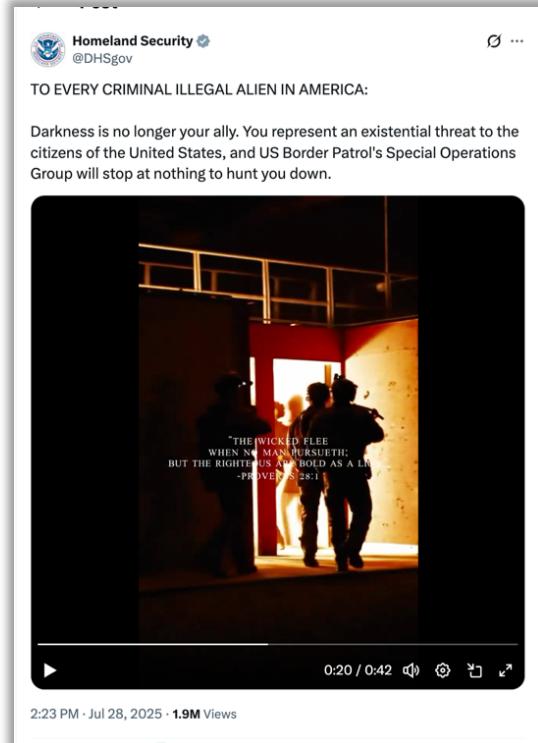
CECOT<sup>123</sup> seemed designed to create fear about what would happen to individuals who are arrested.

DHS social media also used photos of militarized agents carrying out immigration enforcement missions. One DHS social media video of agents in military fatigues, guns raised, entering a building at night included the caption,

**“TO EVERY CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIEN IN AMERICA:** Darkness is no longer your ally. You represent an existential threat to the citizens of the U.S., and US Border Patrol’s Special Operations Group will stop at nothing to hunt you down.” Across the video scroll the words “The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.” Proverbs 28:1.”<sup>124</sup>

Images and statements like these created fear of militarized officers in American cities, which was exacerbated as Chicagoans observed military troops and National Guard members being deployed in Los Angeles<sup>125</sup> and Portland,<sup>126</sup> while President Trump threatened to do the same in Chicago.<sup>127</sup>

In late August, reports circulated that the Pentagon was contemplating the deployment of National Guard and active-duty military members to Chicago beginning in September to meet the White House’s alleged goal of at least 3,000 arrests per day.<sup>128</sup> On September 2, 2025, President Trump said, “We’re going in. I didn’t say when, but we’re going in.”<sup>129</sup> Days later, he renamed the Department of Defense to the Department of War.<sup>130</sup> The next day, President Trump teased an impending invasion of Chicago by U.S. military forces on Truth Social, writing “I love the smell of



Source: Department of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (Jul. 28, 2025, 2:23 PM).

<sup>123</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Sec., “Press Photo, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem Travels to El Salvador,” March 26, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/photo/59679>.

<sup>124</sup> Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (@DHSgov), X (Jul. 28, 2025 2:23 PM), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1949913619644493930?lang=en>.

<sup>125</sup> Shawn Hubler, *Appeals Court Says Trump Must End Los Angeles Deployment by Monday*, The New York Times, Dec. 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/13/us/california-national-guard-trump-los-angeles.html>.

<sup>126</sup> Tony Schnick and Jeff Thompson, *A Timeline Of Trump’s Focus On Portland*, OPB, Oct. 20, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/10/20/trump-focus-portland-timeline/>.

<sup>127</sup> Dan Lamothe, *Pentagon Plans Military Deployment In Chicago As Trump Eyes Crackdown*, The Washington Post, Aug. 23, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/08/23/trump-chicago-military-national-guard/>.

<sup>128</sup> *Id.*

<sup>129</sup> James Neveau et. al., ‘*We’re Going In:’ Trump Says Federal Intervention Is Coming To Chicago*, NBC Chicago, Sept. 2, 2025, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-politics/were-going-in-trump-says-federal-intervention-is-coming-to-chicago/3818520/>.

<sup>130</sup> Executive Order 14347, Restoring the United States Dep’t of War, 90 Fed. Reg. 43893 (Sept. 10, 2025), available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-09-10/pdf/2025-17508.pdf>.

deportations in the morning...’ Chicago about to find out why it’s called the Department of WAR.”<sup>131</sup> Two days later, ICE announced the launch of Operation Midway Blitz.

High-profile militarized tactics, such as a raid led by Secretary Noem in Elgin on September 16, 2025, were a consistent feature of Operation Midway Blitz and echoed the L.A. raids and Operation Safeguard.<sup>132</sup> Federal agents, including “armed ICE agents wearing fatigues,” deployed low-flying helicopters, bright lights and smoke bombs during an early morning raid of a home in a residential neighborhood.<sup>133</sup> Seven people appeared to have been detained during that raid, including two U.S. citizens.<sup>134</sup> This is just one example of many that would occur during Operation Midway Blitz of DHS profiling particular arrests as part of a coordination with the White House to produce videos and other social media content to support the Administration’s mass deportation campaign.<sup>135</sup>

### False Statements and Lack of Oversight Create Opportunities for Misconduct

Senior Administration officials also made statements implying federal immigration agents would not be held accountable for their misconduct. In August 2025, President Trump commented on images purporting to show protesters spitting on officers: “And they’re standing there, and people are spitting in their face, and they’re not allowed to do anything. But now, they are allowed to do whatever the hell they want.”<sup>136</sup> When asked about discipline for DHS agents, CBP Commander Bovino told reporters that no agents had been disciplined for their actions in Chicago because their conduct had been “exemplary.”<sup>137</sup>



Source: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Sept. 6, 2025, 10:38 AM).

<sup>131</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Sept. 6, 2025 10:38 AM), <https://truthtsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115158096026629509>.

<sup>132</sup> Cindy Hernandez and Adriana Cardona-Maguigad, *Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem Leads Elgin Raid; 1 U.S. Citizen Among 6 Detained*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 16, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/16/homeland-security-secretary-kristi-noem-leads-elgin-raid-4-arrested>.

<sup>133</sup> *Id.*

<sup>134</sup> Sabrina Franzia et. al., *2 U.S. Citizens Among 7 Detained At Early Morning Elgin, Illinois ICE Raid*, CBS Chicago, Sept. 18, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/ice-raid-elgin-illinois/>.

<sup>135</sup> Joyce Sohyun Lee and Drew Harwell, *We Read Thousands Of Internal ICE Chats. They Show How Officials Make Raids Go Viral*, The Washington Post, Dec. 23, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2025/ice-social-media-blitz/>.

<sup>136</sup> Josh Campbell, *As ICE Escalates Its Tactics, Are Federal Agents Truly ‘Untouchable’ In The Eyes Of The Law?*, CNN, Nov. 15, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/15/us/ice-federal-agents-immigration-force>.

<sup>137</sup> Nicole Sganga, *Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino Says Agents’ Use Of Force In Chicago ‘Has Been Exemplary,’* CBS News, Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/border-patrol-chief-gregory-bovino-agents-use-of-force-in-chicago/>.

In October, after U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis issued a temporary restraining order restricting the use of crowd control weapons by federal agents in Chicago, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller said in an interview:

“But what we need to reassure – a couple of points – to all ICE officers, you have federal immunity in the conduct of your duties … You have immunity to perform your duties and no one, no city official, no state official, no illegal alien, no leftist agitator or domestic insurrectionist can prevent you from fulfilling your legal obligations and duties.”<sup>138</sup>

Although these claims about immunity misstate the law, they reflect a perception that federal officials cannot be held accountable, and were made in the wake of the July 2024 U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. 593 (2024), in which the Supreme Court addressed the scope of immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts by a former President.

Federal agencies also continued to keep information from the public about the breadth of ICE and CBP’s activities.<sup>139</sup> For example, ICE attempted to limit congressional oversight by adopting policies that limit members of congress from visiting ICE field offices with 72-hour prior notice.<sup>140</sup> They then proposed rules to require seven-day prior notice.<sup>141</sup>

Although Secretary Noem and other senior officials selectively highlighted particular arrests by ICE and CBP as evidence of the success of the Trump Administration, DHS has not been transparent with comprehensive information about how many arrests, detentions and deportations have been made since January 2025 and how many of the individuals detained had criminal records. Indeed, organizations have had to file FOIA requests and litigation to obtain this basic information.<sup>142</sup> Data obtained by the Deportation Data Project estimates that from the start of Operation Midway Blitz until October 15, only 15% had a criminal conviction and only 3% had a conviction for a violent crime.<sup>143</sup>

In addition, DHS officials have misled the public about incidents where individuals were harmed by ICE or CBP officers. On September 12, 2025 Silverio Villegas González was killed by ICE agents

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<sup>138</sup> Fox News, The Will Cain Show, “Stephen Miller: East Wing was ‘cheaply built,’ long overdue for renovation,” Oct. 24, 2025 (beginning at 6:36), available at: <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6383815895112>.

<sup>139</sup> See, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics,” last accessed Dec. 23, 2025, available at: <https://www.ice.gov/statistics>; Shannon Pettypiece, *How Trump Is Reshaping Government Data*, NBC News, Aug. 14, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-reshaping-government-data-rcna222900>.

<sup>140</sup> Rebecca Beitsch, *DHS Places New Limits On Lawmakers Visiting ICE Facilities*, The Hill, June 18, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5358006-dhs-lawmakers-visits-ice/>.

<sup>141</sup> Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, *Judge Lifts Trump Administration Limits On Lawmaker Visits To ICE Jails*, Dec. 17, 2025, Politico, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/12/17/ice-lawmaker-visits-policy-ruling-00695801>.

<sup>142</sup> Deportation Data Project, “ICE data release: Sep. 2023 to mid-Oct. 2025,” Dec. 1, 2025, <https://deportationdata.org/news/2025-12-01-ICE-release.html>; Lauren FitzPatrick, *How Many Immigrants Has ICE Arrested And Detained So Far This Year? Here’s What We Know.*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 12, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/the-watchdogs/2025/09/12/immigration-customs-enforcement-ice-arrests-detentions-deportation-trac>.

<sup>143</sup> CBS Chicago, *Only 3% Of Those Detained In Operation Midway Blitz Had Violent Convictions*, Dec. 4, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tgmlldqg8QC0>.

during a traffic stop in Franklin Park, Illinois.<sup>144</sup> Initially, DHS reported that the agent had opened fire “fearing for his life” because he was dragged a significant distance by Villegas González’s car as he fled a traffic stop and, as a result had sustained multiple serious injuries.<sup>145</sup> When video footage was released 10 days later by Franklin Park police, who had responded to the shooting, the recording showed both the agent and his partner stating the injuries were “nothing major.”<sup>146</sup> Similarly, federal prosecutors ultimately dropped assault charges against Marimar Martinez who was shot by CBP agents in Brighton Park and who CBP accused of boxing in CBP agents with her vehicle and who was described as a “domestic terrorist” by a DHS spokesperson.<sup>147</sup>

The death of Villegas González and the shooting of Martinez preceded what appear to be a disturbingly familiar practice by DHS to blame individuals when they are injured or killed by an ICE officer rather than examine the conduct of the officer involved. This practice was recently repeated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where ICE officers shot and killed Renee Good on January 7, 2026,<sup>148</sup> and Alex Pretti on January 24, 2026.<sup>149</sup> In each of these shootings, like those of Villegas González and Martinez, DHS statements about the incidents contradict what evidence the public has seen.<sup>150</sup>

Commander Bovino told one news outlet that the “the use of force that I’ve seen [used by federal agents] has been exemplary” and that he believed” everyone has acted well within policy.”<sup>151</sup> In October 2025, U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis issued an opinion calling the deposition testimony of Commander Bovino “not credible. Bovino appeared evasive over the three days of his deposition, either providing ‘cute’ responses to Plaintiffs’ counsel’s questions or outright lying.”<sup>152</sup> Judge Ellis concluded that “Bovino admitted in his deposition that he lied multiple times about the events that occurred in Little Village that prompted him to throw tear gas at protesters.”<sup>153</sup>

Federal officials, including Commander Bovino and ‘Border Czar’ Homan, also denied that federal immigration agents were basing arrests on individuals’ race, color of skin, or accent despite reports and court findings to the contrary.

In one interview, Commander Bovino denied that CBP was “looking for people with brown skin and accents”, saying they were “looking for immigration violators, folks that have violated our immigration laws, those vile criminals that harm thousands of American citizens each year.... It has

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<sup>144</sup> Emmanuel Camarillo et. al., *Silverio Villegas González, Who Was Killed By ICE Agents, ‘Touched The Lives Of So Many’*, Chicago Sun-Times Sept. 15, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/15/silverio-villegas-gonzalez-fatally-shot-by-ice-agents-touched-the-lives-of-so-many-loved-ones-say>

<sup>145</sup> Tom Schuba and Nader Issa, *ICE Officer Said His Injuries Were ‘Nothing Major’ After Deadly Shooting Near Chicago, Video Shows*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 22, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/the-watchdogs/2025/09/22/ice-officer-injuries-nothing-major-deadly-franklin-park-shooting-mexican-immigrant-chicago-video>.

<sup>146</sup> *Id.*

<sup>147</sup> Matt Masterson, *Feds Dismiss Charges Against Woman Shot By Border Patrol Agent In Brighton Park*, WTTW, Nov. 20, 2025, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/11/20/feds-dismiss-charges-against-woman-shot-border-patrol-agent-brighton-park>.

<sup>148</sup> Sara Tenenbaum and Dave Savini, *Deadly Minneapolis ICE Shooting Echoes Franklin Park, Marimar Martinez Shootings During Operation Midway Blitz*, CBS Chicago, Jan. 7, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/minneapolis-ice-shooting-franklin-park-marimar-martinez-operation-midway-blitz/>.

<sup>149</sup> Devon Lum and Haley Willis, *Videos Show Moments in Which Agents Killed a Man in Minneapolis*, The New York Times, Jan. 24, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/24/us/minneapolis-shooting-federal-agents-video.html>.

<sup>150</sup> *Supra* notes 148 and 149.

<sup>151</sup> Nicole Sganga, *Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino Says Agents’ Use Of Force In Chicago ‘Has Been Exemplary’*, CBS News, Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/border-patrol-chief-gregory-bovino-agents-use-of-force-in-chicago/>.

<sup>152</sup> Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 11, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).

<sup>153</sup> *Id.*

nothing to do with skin color, speech or anything else, it's immigration laws.”<sup>154</sup> However, days later Commander Bovino told a reporter that arrests might be based on “the particular characteristics of an individual, how they look. How do they look compared to, say, you?” referring to a white reporter.<sup>155</sup>

## Next Steps in The Commission’s Work

### Investigative Work

The Commission continues to gather information from factual and expert witnesses about the actions of federal immigration agents and intends to provide further information about its findings in its final report. Some of the conduct that the Commission is focused on includes:

- Use of force by federal immigration agents, including the misuse of crowd control weapons.
- Warrantless and discriminatory arrests.
- Wrongful detention, inhumane treatment and death of detainees.
- Enforcement at sensitive locations.
- Misleading the public and eroding public trust.
- Deployment of identity shielding techniques, such as masks and switching or hiding license plates.
- Excessively militarized campaigns including the display of high-powered weapons and helicopters.
- Displays of disregard for human dignity and unprofessional behavior.
- Endangering bystanders and communities.
- Suppression of first amendment activities.

The Commission will also be holding a series of regional community listening sessions in partnership with community-based organizations to provide safe and accessible forums for residents to share experiences, observations and concerns related to federal enforcement actions.

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<sup>154</sup> Command Op At Large CA Gregory K. Bovino (@CMDROpAtLargeCA), X (Sept. 19, 2025 10:54 AM), <https://x.com/CMDROpAtLargeCA/status/196906755148633060> (with post linking to interview on Fox News, Fox and Friends).

<sup>155</sup> Chip Mitchell, *Transcript: Gregory Bovino Says Arrestees In Downtown Chicago Chosen Based Partly On ‘How They Look’*, WBEZ Chicago, Sept. 30, 2025, <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/09/30/transcript-audio-gregory-bovino-immigrant-arrests-downtown-chicago-chosen-how-they-look>.

## Future Hearings

The Commission will be holding additional hearings.

| <b>Event</b>                         | <b>Location</b>   | <b>Date and Time</b>                               |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| January Hearing                      | <b>Michael A. Bilandic Building</b><br>160 North LaSalle St., Chicago | Fri, Jan 30, 2026 · 9 a.m.–1 p.m.                  |
| February Hearing                     | <b>Michael A. Bilandic Building</b><br>160 North LaSalle St., Chicago | Tues, Feb 24, 2026 · 9 a.m.–1 p.m.                 |
| March Hearing                        | <b>Michael A. Bilandic Building</b><br>160 North LaSalle St., Chicago | TBD  |
| April Hearing                        | <b>Michael A. Bilandic Building</b><br>160 North LaSalle St., Chicago | Tues, Apr 21, 2026 · 9 a.m.–12 p.m. /1 p.m.–4 p.m. |
| Report Deadline /<br>Special Meeting | 555 W. Monroe   | Thurs, Apr 30, 2026 · TBD                          |

## Policy Recommendations

Part of the Commission's purpose is to make recommendations for law or policy changes to ensure greater protection for Illinois residents from violations of their rights and to ensure community safety.

To inform its recommendations, the Commission is seeking input from community organizations, advocacy groups, and national experts and invites written proposals on specific changes to federal, state and local policies that the Commission should consider when making its recommendations. These written proposals may include both policy changes to be enacted by state and federal executive branches, as well as proposed changes to law. The Commission acknowledges that certain policy changes, particularly those governing the standards and training for the conduct of federal immigration agents, might be most appropriate for changes to federal law or policy, rather than by changes to state law, but that current political realities may make implementation of these changes at the federal level unlikely. Nevertheless, the Commission invites recommendations on federal changes because they could be considered in the future and welcomes recommendations on where policy changes could be made in state law in the absence of, or in addition to, federal action.

Identifying policy solutions that could achieve sustainable and meaningful change to prevent some of the worst behaviors observed during Operation Midway Blitz is difficult when the weight of the federal government can be weaponized by its leadership. The Commission is not blind to the reality that changes to law, policies, training, and officer discipline can only achieve so much if the rules are repeatedly ignored. As the Commission's future hearings will explore, policy changes will only be successful if they are coupled with fundamental efforts to deter a backslide of democracy.

The Commission anticipates identifying additional areas for recommendations as a result of its future hearings and ongoing investigations. Based on its initial assessment of the conduct of federal immigration agents during Operation Midway Blitz, the Commission has identified several areas in

which it anticipates making recommendations. Comments need not be limited to these topics, but the Commission is particularly interested in proposals on the following issues.

1. Standards, limits and training for federal immigration agents' **use of force** and less lethal weapons (e.g. chemical irritants such as teargas and pepper spray, rubber bullets, and "stun" grenades).

In its first hearing, the Commission heard testimony from Dr. Rohini Haar about the misuse of "less lethal" weapons, including chemical irritants and rubber bullets, by federal immigration agents during Operation Midway Blitz. Based on her review of over a dozen videos in which federal agents could be seen using some form of less lethal weapon against individuals or crowds, Dr. Haar concluded that (1) the use of chemical irritants can cause severe injuries, lasting physical and psychological injuries, and even death, (2) the use of force was by and large unjustified, and (3) when it was being used, basic protocols that would protect health and limit injuries were not being followed. In an opinion granting a preliminary injunction against the federal government regarding its activities in Operation Midway Blitz, U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis concluded that the use of less lethal force by federal immigration agents often inflamed situations and that federal agents significantly deviated from standard and accepted practices in their interactions with protesters and journalists.

The Commission is examining ways that existing standards for crowd control management and the use of less lethal weapons by federal immigration agents did not adequately protect members of the public from unjustified and excessive uses of force. In particular, the Commission is interested in ways to address the issues identified in Dr. Haar's testimony and Judge Ellis' opinion by improving existing federal standards for use of crowd control weapons to prevent their misuse against nonviolent protesters and bystanders. The Commission is also interested in ways to strengthen training of federal immigration agents on crowd control techniques and general use of force policies; policies to ensure compliance with those standards; methods for putting federal authorities on notice when agents engage in misconduct; and ways to prevent the misuse of federal immigration law enforcement resources to intimidate the public.

2. Limitations on federal immigration agents' use of face masks and other **identity shielding** techniques (e.g. unmarked vehicles, lack of badges, swapping license plates).

In its first hearing, the Commission reviewed video of a federal agent spraying a chemical agent into the Veraza family's vehicle. Because this agent appears to be wearing a face mask, however, the identity of this agent is difficult to determine. As the International Association of Chiefs of Police acknowledged, the use of unnecessary face masks by immigration agents can create "confusion, fear and mistrust." Additionally, federal immigration agents used other techniques, such as not wearing badges or swapping license plates, for shielding their identity and making it more difficult for individuals to know which federal agency they were being arrested by. Such tactics can also create opportunities for bad actors impersonating immigration agents. Although the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625, ILCS 5/3-413(1), already prohibits the swapping, tampering or altering of vehicle license plates, federal immigration agents have engaged in such conduct. The Commission is interested in recommending policy changes to prevent the inappropriate use of identity shielding techniques by federal immigration agents and invites recommendations on such measures. For example, Judge Ellis' preliminary injunction order required all federal agents engaged in Operation Midway Blitz to have visible identification and to activate any body-worn cameras while engaged in enforcement activities. The Commission seeks similar proposals for addressing these tactics in state and federal policy.

3. Limitations on federal immigration agents use of **surveillance technology**, including the use of facial recognition, license plate readers, and expanded access to data.

Several reports have highlighted privacy concerns with the increased use of surveillance technology by federal immigration agencies. A December report from Politico found that ICE is acquiring social-media monitoring tools, facial recognition software, license plate readers, phone location tracking software, drones, and “skip-tracing” services to track down hard-to-find individuals.<sup>156</sup> ICE has also entered a \$30 million contract with artificial intelligence company Palantir to create an “Immigration Lifestyle Operating System” that will use external and internal data sources to identify targets for arrests and track deportations.<sup>157</sup> Details about that system have been largely kept from the public, and could infringe on the privacy of all individuals in the U.S. if appropriate safeguards are not put in place. ICE has also requested or demanded data from state agencies and other federal administrative agencies to support immigration efforts, including data from the Internal Revenue Service and state Medicaid programs. As a result, immigrant communities may be deterred from filing taxes or seeking medical benefits under these programs if they are fearful that their information will be shared with ICE. The Commission is interested in state and federal policy changes that could limit the use of such surveillance techniques by federal immigration agencies and prevent overreaching data sharing requirements by the federal government.

4. Additional mechanisms for **accountability** of misconduct when traditional safeguards are not providing effective oversight.

Traditional institutional safeguards, such as the ICE and CBP Offices of Professional Responsibility and the Inspector General for the DHS, should be identifying and disciplining federal immigration agents for misconduct. These institutions, however, do not appear to be providing effective oversight. For example, the Commission is unaware of any consequences by the DHS for Mr. Gregory Bovino after a federal district court judge concluded that he had lied about the use of teargas in a deposition. Nor has the Department of Justice pursued any criminal action against Mr. Bovino for this misconduct.

The Commission is seeking to make referrals for criminal or civil prosecution for misconduct by federal immigration agents. It also welcomes innovative proposals on how state or federal law or policy could be changed to increase accountability. Such proposals could include mechanisms for identifying and tracking bad actors to prevent them from future law enforcement opportunities at state and local levels, strengthening civil and criminal liability for misconduct by federal immigration agents under state or federal law, creating resources for state law enforcement to investigate misconduct by federal immigration agents when federal authorities are not pursuing such cases, or administrative authorities that states may have to prevent bad actors from engaging in certain activities in the state (e.g. professional licenses or certifications).

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<sup>156</sup> Ng, Alfred, *ICE’s Interest In High-Tech Gear Raises New Questions: ‘What Is It For?’*, Politico, Dec. 26, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/12/26/ice-high-tech-surveillance-lower-privacy-guardrails-00705401?nid=0000018f-3124-de07-a98f-3be4d1400000&nnname=politico-toplines&nrid=0645a4ed-b05d-4d6e-89a2-a6d76fc149eb>.

<sup>157</sup> Caroline Haskins, *ICE Is Paying Palantir \$30 Million To Build ‘ImmigrationOS’ Surveillance Platform*, Wired, Apr. 18, 2025, <https://www.wired.com/story/ice-palantir-immigrationos/>.

5. Measures to increase **transparency** of federal immigration agency activities (e.g. arrest data, detention data) and reports of employee misconduct and discipline.

The federal government's lack of timely transparency about the full number of arrests, detentions, deportations, and other aspects of immigration enforcement has made it difficult for the public, including the Commission, to have full visibility into the extent or breadth of Operation Midway Blitz. For example, ICE stopped updating a publicly available dashboard of "ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Statistics" in January 2025. Similarly, CBP has not published any reports of "Internal Investigations and Employee Accountability" since FY 2023.<sup>158</sup> The Commission believes that the DHS should be required to provide timely updates to such information to allow the public to assess the impact, or effectiveness, of federal immigration agencies and welcomes proposals on how to improve transparency. Additionally, DHS and its agencies should make public its investigations and discipline, and the Commission welcomes additional ideas and proposals for increasing transparency.

6. Changes to federal immigration **enforcement processes** to protect due process and fairness.

The Commission has identified numerous practices that the Trump administration adopted via internal agency policy, executive order or emergency regulations that were designed to increase the potency of federal immigration enforcement authority and to coerce individuals into 'voluntary' self-deportation without any due process before an immigration court or federal court. Some examples include depriving detainees of access to counsel or contact with family; waiving limits on the hours spent in a holding facility; execution of warrantless arrests; enforcement at sensitive locations; eliminating bonds; expansion of expedited removal; and using overcrowded holding facilities. The Commission intends to identify the most significant changes undertaken by the Trump Administration by executive action that is driving the misconduct observed during Operation Midway Blitz, and that could be addressed with renewed federal oversight and legislation. The Commission welcomes input on which of those actions, and any others that may be contemplated by the current administration, are the most urgent for Congress to address. In particular, the Commission is interested in those changes that should be made to federal law to ensure access to due process for everyone in the custody of federal immigration authorities.

7. **Rapid response, community support** initiatives, and "**know your rights**" campaigns.

As the Commission hopes to highlight in future hearings and reports, many legal service providers, community organizations, advocacy groups and individuals have stepped up to support their immigrant neighbors. Organizations in Illinois worked together through a single statewide multilingual hotline, ICIRR's Family Support Hotline (855-435-7693), to provide a coordinated intake system that could dispatch urgent on-site support and make referrals to legal service providers for those in detention or facing deportation. These coordinated efforts across dozens of non-profit organizations have been crucial to responding to Operation Midway Blitz and have served as a model for other states. And Chicagoland community education efforts have been particularly effective.

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<sup>158</sup> See e.g., U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Report on Internal Investigations and Employee Accountability: Fiscal Year 2023*, Oct. 24, 2024, available at: <https://www.cbp.gov/document/report/report-internal-investigations-and-employee-accountability-fy2023>.

The Commission invites feedback on initiatives that have been most impactful in supporting immigrant communities, and what resources and support are needed to continue and expand those efforts, particularly as the threat of a return to Chicago continues and as other states may be embracing for similar campaigns. These proposals could address logistical support that is needed from state and local governments, as well as from private philanthropies and individuals to develop coordinated responses. This could also include recommendations on educational initiatives that community organizations have found most effective and support that state and local governments could provide to complement the work being done by non-governmental actors.

8. Any other proposals to curb misconduct by federal immigration agents, improve accountability, and protect immigrant communities.

The Commission is also identifying state and local policies and actions that helped to mitigate the harm of Operation Midway Blitz that other jurisdictions should consider adopting in anticipation of future enhanced immigration enforcement campaigns. The Commission invites commenters to identify such policies that have worked well in Illinois and that should be highlighted in the Commission's recommendations.

The Commission requests that written proposals be submitted to [DHR.ILAC@illinois.gov](mailto:DHR.ILAC@illinois.gov) by March 1, 2026.

# APPENDIX A: TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*This document is not intended to be a catalogue of all events relevant to Operation Midway Blitz but illustrates significant events that were occurring throughout the country in the lead-up to September 2025. Some of these events may be further examined by the Commission in future hearings and where appropriate, the Commission may supplement this document when it issues its Final Report.*

## Prior to President Trump's First Term

### **March 7, 1985**

Chicago becomes second 'welcoming city' in the nation through an executive order issued by Chicago Mayor Harold Washington.<sup>159</sup>

### **March 29, 2006**

Chicago City council adopts ordinance to become a welcoming city.<sup>160</sup> The welcoming ordinance was amended in 2012 to add clarity to the ordinance's purpose and intent, and again in 2016 to strengthen certain provisions.

## President Trump's First Administration

### **Jan. 20, 2017**

Donald J. Trump inaugurated as President of the United States.

### **Jan. 25, 2017**

President Trump issues Executive Order 13768 (Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the U.S.) declaring that "sanctuary jurisdictions" shall not be eligible to receive federal grants.<sup>161</sup>

### **Aug. 28, 2017**

Effective date of Illinois TRUST Act, 5 ILCS 805/1 et. seq., prohibiting state and local law enforcement coordination with civil immigration enforcement.

### **July 25, 2017**

U.S. Department of Justice attempts to withhold federal funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program for FY 2017 from the City of Chicago and State of Illinois for failure to cooperate with ICE pursuant to EO 13768.<sup>162</sup>

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<sup>159</sup> City of Chicago, Office of the Mayor, Executive Order 85-1, March 7, 1985.

<sup>160</sup> City of Chicago, Coun. J. 3-29-06, p. 74325.

<sup>161</sup> Executive Order 13768, Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States, 82 Fed. Reg. 8799 (Jan. 30, 2017).

<sup>162</sup> Congressional Research Service, "DOJ Grant Conditions Target Sanctuary Jurisdictions: Litigation Update," May 4, 2018, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10126>.

**Nov. 16, 2017**

White House Officials ask federal agencies if individuals arrested at the southern border could be bused to “small- and mid-sized sanctuary cities” in order to alleviate a shortage of detention space and to send a message to Democratic opponents. ICE officials responded with budgetary, liability, and public relations concerns and the idea did not progress.<sup>163</sup> In February 2018, White Officials again raise idea of bussing asylum seekers to sanctuary cities, an idea which was rejected by the ICE legal department as inappropriate.<sup>164</sup>

**April 19, 2018**

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a nationwide preliminary injunction preventing the Department of Justice from imposing conditions related to law enforcement cooperation with immigration authorities on FY 2017 Byrne JAG funding, including for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.<sup>165</sup> The preliminary injunction was narrowed on June 26 to only apply to the City of Chicago, after which the Illinois Attorney General filed a lawsuit challenging the withholding of State funds.<sup>166</sup> A permanent injunction with respect to the FY 2017 funds for the State of Illinois was entered on Sept. 26, 2018.<sup>167</sup>

**May 7, 2018**

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announces “Zero Tolerance” policy to prosecute all individuals crossing the border and to separate children from parents.<sup>168</sup> It’s estimated that more 4,00 children were separated from their parents under the Zero Tolerance policy.<sup>169</sup>

**May 19-25, 2018**

Operation Keep Safe in Chicago during which ICE engaged in pattern of executing warrantless arrests without probable cause, arresting 156 people, including 106 without warrants which become the basis for the allegations in the *Castanon Nava Consent Decree*.<sup>170</sup>

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<sup>163</sup> Rachel Bade & Nick Miroff, *White House Proposed Releasing Immigrant Detainees In Sanctuary Cities Targeting Political Foes*, The Washington Post, Apr. 11, 2019, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/white-house-proposed-releasing-immigrant-detainees-in-sanctuary-cities-targeting-political-foes/2019/04/11/72839bc8-5c68-11e9-9625-01d48d50ef75\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/white-house-proposed-releasing-immigrant-detainees-in-sanctuary-cities-targeting-political-foes/2019/04/11/72839bc8-5c68-11e9-9625-01d48d50ef75_story.html).

<sup>164</sup> *Id.*

<sup>165</sup> *City of Chicago v. Sessions*, 888 F.3d 272 (7th Cir. 2018).

<sup>166</sup> Matt Masterson, *Attorney General Madigan Sues DOJ Over Withheld Federal Funding*, WTTW, July 13, 2018, <https://news.wttw.com/2018/07/13/attorney-general-madigan-sues-doj-over-withheld-federal-funding>.

<sup>167</sup> Compl. ¶ 24, *State of Illinois v. Barr*, 1:19-cv-03461 (N.D. Ill. May 23, 2019),

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/dA/4eea73fc79/201905-23%20DEPARTMENT%20OF%20JUSTICE%20FOR%20WITHHOLDING%20ILLINOIS%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT%20FUNDING.pdf>

<sup>168</sup> Richard Gonzales, *Sessions Says ‘Zero Tolerance’ For Illegal Border Crossers, Vows to Divide Families*, NPR, May 7, 2018, <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/05/07/609225537/sessions-says-zero-tolerance-for-illegal-border-crossers-vows-to-divide-families>.

<sup>169</sup> Caitlin Dickerson, *We need to take away children*, The Atlantic, September 2022, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/09/trump-administration-family-separation-policy-immigration/670604/>.

<sup>170</sup> Press Release, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “ICE arrests 156 criminal aliens and immigration violators during Operation Keep Safe in Chicago Area,” May 25, 2018,” available at: <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-156-criminal-aliens-and-immigration-violators-during-operation-keep-safe>.

**May 29, 2018**

Two Chicago residents file class action complaint in *Castanon Nava v. Department of Homeland Security* in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois challenging the “indiscriminate enforcement actions, through traffic stops, home raids, and other sweeps” conducted during Operation Keep Safe.<sup>171</sup>

**July 23, 2018**

DHS issues regulations expanding the use of expedited removal to any noncitizens encountered anywhere in the U.S. who were not admitted or paroled, and who could not demonstrate that they had been present in the U.S. for more than two years. With this expansion, more populations would not have an opportunity to contest their removal before an immigration judge. The rules were enjoined by a District Court in September 2019, although a subsequent appeals court ruling in June allowed them to take effect.<sup>172</sup> The rules were later rescinded by the Biden Administration.

**Nov. 20, 2018**

U.S. Department of Justice attempts to impose same conditions related to immigration enforcement on the FY 2018 Byrne JAG funds as were enjoined for FY 2017.<sup>173</sup> The Illinois Attorney General filed a legal challenge to the FY 2018 funding conditions on May 23, 2019, and a settlement agreement was reached October 25, 2019, under which a court order prohibited the Department of Justice from imposing the challenged conditions on Illinois' funds.<sup>174</sup>

**Dec. 20, 2018**

Trump Administration announces the “Remain in Mexico” program (also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols) which requires individuals seeking asylum to wait in Mexico prior to their U.S. immigration court hearing, rather than be paroled into the U.S. pending a decision.<sup>175</sup>

**Jan. 1, 2019**

Effective date of Illinois' Voices of Immigration Communities Empowering Victims Enforcements (VOICES) Act, 5 ILCS 825/1 et. seq., which requires law enforcement agencies to establish procedures for responding to requests from victims of certain crimes who were applying for a U-visa or T-visa, which provide lawful nonimmigrant status to individuals who assist law enforcement in investigating or prosecuting the crime.

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<sup>171</sup> Second Amend. Compl., *Nava v. Dep. 't of Homeland Sec.*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 18, 2018).

<sup>172</sup> Migration Policy Institute, “Four Years of Profound Change,” at 45 (Feb. 2022), available at: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-trump-at-4-report-final.pdf>.

<sup>173</sup> Compl. ¶ 28, *State of Illinois v. Barr*, 1:19-cv-03461 (N.D. Ill. May 23, 2019), <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/dA/4eea73fc79/201905-23%20DEPARTMENT%20OF%20JUSTICE%20FOR%20WITHHOLDING%20ILLINOIS%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT%20FUNDING.pdf>.

<sup>174</sup> Press Release, Office of Illinois Attorney General, “Attorney General Raoul Secures \$6.6 Million in Federal Funding for Illinois Law Enforcement,” Oct. 25, 2019, <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/dA/19818fe561/201910-25%206.6%20MILLION%20IN%20FEDERAL%20FUNDING%20FOR%20ILLINOIS%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT.pdf>.

<sup>175</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Memorandum: Policy Guidance for Implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols, Jan. 25, 2019, available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0129\\_OPA\\_migrant-protection-protocols-policy-guidance.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0129_OPA_migrant-protection-protocols-policy-guidance.pdf).

**March 26, 2020**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issues order under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service Act to suspend entry of individuals into the U.S. at a land Port of Entry or Border Patrol station at or near the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico, on the basis that such entries are a threat to public health due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>176</sup>

**President Biden's Administration**

**Jan. 20, 2021**

Joseph R. Biden inaugurated as President of the United States.

**June 1, 2021**

Biden Administration's Department of Homeland Security terminates the Migrant Protection Protocol (also known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy) amidst humanitarian concerns,<sup>177</sup> although subsequent litigation would not allow its complete termination until 2023.<sup>178</sup>

**Oct. 27, 2021**

U.S. Department of Justice expands restrictions on immigration enforcement at sensitive locations.<sup>179</sup>

**Nov. 21, 2021**

ICE issues warrantless arrest and vehicle policy stop pursuant to *Castanon-Nava Settlement Agreement*.

**Feb. 8, 2022**

U.S. District Court Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer approves proposed *Castanon-Nava Settlement Agreement* by which ICE agreed to adopt a policy requiring individualized assessment of reasonable suspicion that an individual was likely to escape when executing a warrantless arrest, consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act.<sup>180</sup>

**Aug. 31, 2022**

Texas Governor Gregg Abbott directs Texas Division of Emergency Management to charter buses for transporting asylum seekers who enter at the Texas and Mexico border to sanctuary cities. The first bus to Chicago arrives at Union Station on August 31.<sup>181</sup>

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<sup>176</sup> Notice of Order Under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service Act, Suspending Introduction of Certain Persons From Countries Where a Communicable Disease Exists, 85 Fed. Reg. 17060 (March 26, 2020).

<sup>177</sup> Department of Homeland Security, Migrant Protection Protocols (Biden Administration Archive – February 2021), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/migrant-protection-protocols-biden-administration>.

<sup>178</sup> Congressional Research Service, "Rescission of the Migrant Protection Protocols: Litigation Developments," Feb. 8, 2023, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10915>.

<sup>179</sup> Memorandum from Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas," Oct. 27, 2021, available at: [https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21\\_1027\\_opa\\_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf).

<sup>180</sup> Settlement Agreement and Release, *Nava v. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 30, 2021).

<sup>181</sup> Press Release, Office of the Texas Governor, "Governor Abbott Announces First Bus of Migrants Arrives in Chicago," Aug. 31, 2022 (available at: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-first-bus-of-migrants-arrives-in-chicago>).

**May 11, 2023**

The suspension of entries at the Southern Border pursuant to Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act ends with the expiration of the COVID-19 federal public health emergency.<sup>182</sup>

**July 1, 2024**

U.S. Supreme Court issues decision in *Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. 593 (2024) holding that a former President is entitled to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority and is entitled to at least a presumption of immunity for all official acts.

## President Trump Wins Presidency for Second Term

**Nov. 5, 2024**

Donald J. Trump wins election for second Presidential term.

**Nov. 14, 2024**

On Donald Trump Jr.'s podcast, President-Elect Trump's Border Czar Tom Homan said that the public should expect to see "Shock and Awe" on Day 1 of the new Trump Administration.<sup>183</sup>

**Dec. 9, 2024**

President-Elect Trump's Border Czar Tom Holman attends event in Chicago, and states "We're going to start right here in Chicago, Illinois... January 21<sup>st</sup>, you're going to look for a lot of ICE agents in your city looking for criminals and gang members."<sup>184</sup>

**Dec. 18, 2024**

The last arrival of asylum seekers via bus or plane from the State of Texas to the City of Chicago. Between August 2022 and December 2024, 51,648 individuals seeking asylum were sent by the State of Texas to Chicago after being granted temporary parole into the U.S.<sup>185</sup>

**Jan. 7, 2025**

Gregory Bovino, Chief of the Customs and Border Patrol El Centro Sector, leads "Operation Return to Sender" in Southern California wherein they detained laborers and farmworkers using traffic stops and workplace raids over a 3-day period, deploying similar tactics that would be used in LA and Chicago.<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Adam Cancryn, *Biden to end COVID health emergency declarations in May*, Politico, Jan. 30, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/01/30/biden-end-covid-health-emergency-may-00080305>.

<sup>183</sup> Triggered with Donald Trump Jr., "Shaking up the Swamp and We're Just Getting Started, Plus Interview with Tom Homan," Nov. 14, 2024, <https://f1991d70-8ddc-474c-91c2-1b97a7a78cf3.libsyn.com/shaking-up-the-swamp-and-were-just-getting-started-plus-interview-with-tom-homan-triggered-ep191>.

<sup>184</sup> Elyssa Kaufman et. al., *Tom Homan, President-Elect Trump's Border Czar, Says Deportation Plan Will Start In Chicago*, CBS News Chicago, Dec. 11, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/tom-homan-trump-border-czar-chicago/>.

<sup>185</sup> City of Chicago, New Arrivals Situational Awareness Dashboard, <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home/Dashboard.html> (accessed Dec. 18, 2025).

<sup>186</sup> Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Provisional Class Certification and Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, *United Farm Workers v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-00246-JLT-CDB (E.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2025).

### **Jan. 17, 2025**

Wall Street Journal reports that “incoming Trump administration is planning a large-scale immigration raid in Chicago next week... The raid is expected to begin on Tuesday morning, a day after Trump is inaugurated and will last all week... U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will send between 100 and 200 officers to carry out the operation.”<sup>187</sup>

### **Jan. 17, 2025**

Tom Homan suggests to New York Times that plans for immigration raid in Chicago were being reconsidered due to the public reporting of the operation.<sup>188</sup>

## First 100 days of Second Trump Administration

### **Jan. 20, 2025**

Donald J. Trump sworn in for second term as U.S. President. In his inaugural address he announces he will sign a series of historic executive orders and “All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came. We will reinstate my remain in Mexico policy. I will end the practice of catch and release. And will send troops to the southern border to repel the disastrous invasion of our country.”<sup>189</sup>

### **Jan. 20, 2025**

On first day of second term, President Trump issues 9 Executive Orders addressing immigration and declares a national emergency at the Southern Border of the United States.

- Executive Order 14159 “Protecting the American People Against Invasion” – directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to withhold federal funds from sanctuary jurisdictions.<sup>190</sup>
- Executive Order 14160 “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship” – directs federal agencies to stop recognizing birthright citizenship for any child born in the U.S. after February 15, 2025, to parents who are in the U.S. unlawfully or on temporary status.<sup>191</sup>
- Executive Order 14161 “Protecting the U.S. from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats” – adopts more stringent vetting and screening procedures for people immigrating to the U.S., seeking a visa or applying for refugee status and recommend any additional measures to “ensure the proper assimilation of lawful immigrants” and “promote a united American identity.”<sup>192</sup>
- Executive Order 14163 “Realigning the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program” – suspends refugee admissions and established a policy to only admit those refugees who can “fully and

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<sup>187</sup> Michelle Hackman et. al., *Trump to Begin Large-Scale Deportations Tuesday*, The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 17, 2025, available at: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-to-begin-large-scale-deportations-tuesday-e1bd89bd>.

<sup>188</sup> Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump’s Deportation Plan Could Start Next Week in Chicago*, The New York Times Jan. 17, 2025, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-raids-chicago.html>.

<sup>189</sup> The Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 2025, available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>.

<sup>190</sup> Exec. Order 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 29, 2025).

<sup>191</sup> Exec. Order 14160, 90 Fed. Reg. 8449 (Jan. 29, 2025).

<sup>192</sup> Exec. Order 14161, 90 Fed. Reg. 8451 (Jan. 30, 2025).

appropriately assimilate" and to allow local jurisdictions to have a role in determining whether refugees should be allowed to resettle in their communities.<sup>193</sup>

- Executive Order 14164 "Restoring the Death Penalty and Protecting Public Safety" – directs the Attorney General to pursue the death penalty in every case of a federal capital crime committed by an alien illegally present in this country.<sup>194</sup>
- Executive Order 14165 "Securing Our Borders" – expands the use of detention and expedited removal processes, and revoked prior policies for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan immigrants that allowed them to enter the U.S. while awaiting determinations. Reinstated the "Migrant Protection Protocols" which requires individuals awaiting asylum determinations to remain in Mexico, rather than be paroled into the U.S. Also revokes the use of the "CBP One" application as a method for facilitating requests for entry to the U.S.<sup>195</sup>
- Executive Order 14167 "Clarifying the Military's Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the U.S." – expands the military's role in immigration enforcement and assigns the U.S. Northern Command the mission to seal the borders of the U.S. and repel forms of invasion including unlawful mass migration, narcotics trafficking, human smuggling and other criminal activities.<sup>196</sup>
- Executive Order 14157 "Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists" – directs the Secretary of State to make recommendations on whether to designate certain cartels and other transnational organizations as foreign terrorist organizations. The order identifies the transnational organizations Tren De Aragua (TdA) and La Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).<sup>197</sup>

**Jan. 20, 2025**

DHS lifts restrictions on enforcement at sensitive locations like schools, churches, hospitals, and courthouses.<sup>198</sup> Variations on this policy had been in place since 2011, including during the first Trump Administration.<sup>199</sup>

**Jan. 20, 2025**

In issuing new guidance, DHS gives agents discretion to conduct enforcement in protected areas on a "case-by-case basis."<sup>200</sup> This guidance was enjoined with respect to houses of worship, litigation is ongoing.

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<sup>193</sup> Exec. Order 14163, 90 Fed. Reg. 8459 (Jan. 30, 2025).

<sup>194</sup> Exec. Order 14164, 90 Fed. Reg. 8463 (Jan. 30, 2025).

<sup>195</sup> Exec. Order 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 30, 2025).

<sup>196</sup> Exec. Order 14167, 90 Fed. Reg. 8613 (Jan. 30, 2025).

<sup>197</sup> Exec. Order 14157, 90 Fed. Reg. 8439 (Jan. 29, 2025).

<sup>198</sup> Memorandum from Benjamin C. Huffman, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas," Jan. 20, 2025, available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/25\\_0120\\_S1\\_enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/25_0120_S1_enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf).

<sup>199</sup> Memorandum from John Morton, Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations," Oct. 24, 2011, available at: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>; Memorandum from Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas," Oct. 27, 2021, available at: [https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21\\_1027\\_opa\\_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf).

<sup>200</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "Protect Areas and Courthouse Arrests," <https://www.ice.gov/about-ice/ero/protected-areas> (accessed Dec. 19, 2025).

**Jan. 20, 2025**

DHS expands use of expedited removal to the maximum authority allowed under law.<sup>201</sup> Allows for the use of the expedited removal process for any individual determined to be inadmissible who had not been admitted or paroled into the U.S. and who had not been physically present in U.S. continuously for two years. This action reversed Biden-era rules, in effect since March 21, 2022, that only permitted such expedited removals for individuals continuously in the U.S. for up to two years if the individual arrived by sea. For individuals who entered by land, such expedited removal was only permitted if the individual was apprehended within 100 miles of the U.S. border and who had been in the U.S. for less than 14 days prior to the encounter. Individuals who are placed in expedited removal are not eligible to request bond from an immigration court; thus, more individuals are held in detentions as a result of this expansion of expedited removal.

**Jan. 20, 2025**

DHS disables the CBP One App which had been used by individuals seeking entry to the U.S. to schedule appointments for asylum interviews.<sup>202</sup>

**Jan. 21, 2025**

Border Czar Tom Homan says in televised interview that arrested individuals who posed safety threats would be ICE's priority, but "when we find him, he may be with others. And unlike the last administration, we're not going to tell ICE officers not to arrest an illegal alien. So, if they find, others will be arrested. So, sanctuary cities will get exactly what they don't want, more agents in their neighborhoods and more collateral arrests."<sup>203</sup>

**Jan. 23, 2025**

Additional guidance issued authorizing DHS office to pause, modify or terminate any parole program and providing guidance on how to exercise enforcement discretion for parole, which is the mechanism by which individuals are allowed into the U.S. pending a final decision on their immigration case.<sup>204</sup>

**Jan. 26, 2025**

DHS announces, "enhanced targeted operations in the City of Chicago."<sup>205</sup>

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<sup>201</sup> Notice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal, 90 Fed. Reg. 8139 (Jan. 24, 2025), available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-24/pdf/2025-01720.pdf>. Additional guidance was issued to CBP and ICE agents on January 23, 2025, authorizing DHS office to pause, modify or terminate any parole program and providing guidance on how to exercise enforcement discretion for parole.

<sup>202</sup> Press Release, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, "CBP Removes Scheduling Functionality in CBP One App," Jan. 21, 2025, available at: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-removes-scheduling-functionality-cbp-one-app>.

<sup>203</sup> Fox News, *Trump Border Czar Tom Homan Reveals ICE Teams Are Already Arresting 'Public Safety Threats'*, Jan. 21, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-border-czar-tom-homan-reveals-ice-teams-already-arresting-public-safety-threats>.

<sup>204</sup> Memorandum from Benjamin C. Huffman, Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Guidance Regarding How to Exercise Enforcement Discretion," Jan. 23, 2025 (available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25\\_0123\\_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25_0123_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf)).

<sup>205</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (@ICEgov), X (Jan. 26, 2025 12:09 PM), <https://x.com/ICEgov/status/1883577941210062880>.

### **Jan. 26 –31, 2025**

DHS conducts “Operation Safeguard 2025” in Chicago and surrounding suburbs, during which television personality Dr. Phil broadcasts live while accompanying Tom Homan during enforcement activity.<sup>206</sup> Reports estimate that at least 122 people were arrested in Illinois, with at least 53 occurring in Chicago.<sup>207</sup> On January 27, Trump administration announces it made close to 1,200 arrests in one day, including in Chicago. Nearly half of those individuals had no criminal records, and many were not the result of targeted enforcement, but collateral arrests.<sup>208</sup>

### **Jan. 26, 2025**

In call to senior ICE officials, Trump Administration officials direct ICE to increase arrests to at least 1,200 to 1,500 per day; each agency field office directed to make 75 arrest per day, and managers would be held accountable for missing targets. In first week, ICE officers arrest 400-600 individuals per day.<sup>209</sup>

### **Jan. 29, 2025**

Trump signs first new law of second term, the Laken Riley Act, which mandates the federal detention of illegal immigrants who are accused (not convicted) of certain crimes, including theft, burglary, assaulting a law enforcement officer, and any crime that causes death or bodily injury.<sup>210</sup>

### **Jan. 29, 2025**

Presidential memorandum directs the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security to expand the Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to provide additional detention space for “high-priority criminal aliens” unlawfully present in the U.S.<sup>211</sup>

### **Feb. 4, 2025**

First flight of detainees arrives at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay; DHS releases photo images of individuals in handcuffs being led off a military plane.<sup>212</sup>

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<sup>206</sup> Tom Schuba, et. al., *Trump Officials Join Federal Agents – And Dr. Phil – For Immigration Arrests In Chicago*, Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 26, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/01/26/dhs-immigration-raids-chicago-sunday-live-file>.

<sup>207</sup> Mick Dumke, *ICE Arrested Nearly 400 In Chicago, Nearby States In The Days After Trump’s Inauguration: Records*, Block Club Chicago, Sept. 16, 2025, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/09/16/ice-arrested-nearly-400-in-chicago-nearby-states-in-the-days-after-trumps-inauguration-records/>.

<sup>208</sup> Gabe Gutierrez and Nicole Acevedo, *ICE makes close to 1,200 arrests in one day*, NBC News, Jan. 27, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/ice-trump-deportations-numbers-rcna188937>

<sup>209</sup> Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, *Trump Officials Issue Quotas To ICE Officers To Ramp Up Arrests*, The Washington Post, Jan. 26, 2025, available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/01/26/ice-arrests-raids-trump-quota/>.

<sup>210</sup> Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No. 119-1 (2025).

<sup>211</sup> Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security, ”Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity,” Jan. 29, 2025, available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/expanding-migrant-operations-center-at-naval-station-guantanamo-bay-to-full-capacity/>.

<sup>212</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “PHOTO RELEASE: DHS releases images of the First Flight of Criminal Aliens to Guantanamo Bay,” Feb. 4, 2025, available at: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/04/dhs-releases-images-first-flight-criminal-aliens-guantanamo-bay>.

**Feb. 5, 2025**

U.S. Department of Justice attempts to withhold federal grants to state and local jurisdictions that unlawfully interfere with federal law enforcement operations directing a pause any further distribution of funds and suspending any new grants.<sup>213</sup>

**Feb. 6, 2025**

Department of Justice files lawsuit challenging the Illinois Trust Act.<sup>214</sup>

**Feb. 14, 2025**

DHS issues guidance requiring all household members of a sponsor of an unaccompanied minor to be fingerprinted.<sup>215</sup> Subsequent guidance required DNA testing to support any claims that a sponsor is biologically related to a child<sup>216</sup> and allowed the Office of Refugee Resettlement to disqualify a potential sponsor based on their immigration status.<sup>217</sup>

**Feb. 17, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem [post](#) to X: "Tonight, I'm announcing a nationwide and international multi-million dollar ad campaign warning illegal aliens to leave our country NOW or face deportation with the inability to return to the US. This serves as a strong warning to criminal illegal aliens to not come to America. If they do, they will be hunted down and deported. Thank you @realdonaldtrump for securing our border and putting America first."<sup>218</sup>

**Feb. 18, 2025**

Department of Interior issues stop work order to providers of legal services to unaccompanied minors. The federal government reversed the stop work order three days later, but on March 21 cancelled portions of the contracts and rescinded all funding for legal representation.<sup>219</sup>

**Feb. 19, 2025**

Executive Order 14218, Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders issued.<sup>220</sup> The order directs federal agencies to enhance verification systems to exclude any individual not eligible for federal benefits due to immigration status, and to ensure that no federal funds were being used to subsidize state or local government programs that promoted sanctuary policies.

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<sup>213</sup> Memorandum for all Department Employees, from The Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, "Sanctuary Jurisdiction Directives," Feb. 5, 2025, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388531/dl?inline>.

<sup>214</sup> *U.S. v. State of Illinois, et. al.*, 1:25-cv-1285 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 6, 2025).

<sup>215</sup> Office of Refugee Resettlement Field Guidance #26: Fingerprint Background Checks and Acceptable Supporting Documentation for a Family Reunification Application, February 14, 2025, <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ORR-FG-26-Revised-Fingerprint-Requirements-for-Sponsors-andHHS--02-14-2025-.pdf>.

<sup>216</sup> Office of Refugee Resettlement Field Guidance #27, DNA Testing Expansion, March 14, 2025, <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/FG-27 - DNA Testing Expansion.pdf>.

<sup>217</sup> Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule; Update To Accord With Statutory Requirements, 90 FR 13554, March 25, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-04971/unaccompaniedchildren-program-foundational-rule-update-to-accord-with-statutory-requirements>.

<sup>218</sup> Secretary Noem (@Sec\_Noem), X (Feb. 17, 2025, 7:44 PM): [https://x.com/Sec\\_Noem/status/1891664961731957035](https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1891664961731957035).

<sup>219</sup> Laura Romero, *Trump Administration Halts Funding For Legal Aid For Migrant Children*, ABC News, March 21, 2025: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trump-administration-halts-funding-legal-aid-migrant-children/story?id=120033078>.

<sup>220</sup> Exec. Order 14218, "Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders," 90 Fed. Reg. 10581 (Feb. 25, 2025), available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-02-25/pdf/2025-03137.pdf>.

**Feb. 28, 2025**

USCIS issues guidance expanding the instances when USCIS officers will issue Notices to Appear (NTA) that commence removal proceedings and eliminating officer discretion except in very limited cases.<sup>221</sup>

**March 1, 2025**

Executive Order 14224, Designating English as the Official Language of the U.S.

**March 5, 2025**

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson testifies before House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.<sup>222</sup>

**March 6, 2025**

State Department begins using artificial intelligence to review social media accounts of student visa holders for political speech.<sup>223</sup>

**March 10, 2025**

DHS launches CBP Home APP which allows individuals to report voluntary deportations, facilitates cost-free travel, and pays individuals \$1,000 to leave the country.<sup>224</sup> In launching app, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem warned in press release “The CBP Home app gives aliens the option to leave now and self-deport, so they may still have the opportunity to return legally in the future and live the American dream. If they don’t, we will find them, we will deport them, and they will never return.”

**March 13, 2025**

Plaintiffs file motion to enforce Castanon Nava Consent Decree alleging that ICE officers violated the consent decree during Operation Safeguard 2025 by conducting warrantless arrests without individualized probable cause assessments, including arrests of U.S. citizens.<sup>225</sup>

## Threats of enhanced efforts and uses of military force

**April 11, 2025**

DHS Interim Final Rule takes effect implementing biometric registration requirement for any non-citizen in the U.S. for longer than 30 days.<sup>226</sup>

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<sup>221</sup> USCIS PM-602-0187: Issuance of Notices to Appear (NTAs) in Cases Involving Inadmissible and Deportable Aliens, February 28, 2025, [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policyalerts/NTA\\_Policy\\_FINAL\\_2.28.25\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policyalerts/NTA_Policy_FINAL_2.28.25_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>222</sup> Craig Wall et. al., *Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson Testifies In DC At Sanctuary Hearing*, ABC 7 Chicago, March 5, 2025, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-mayor-brandon-johnson-set-testify-washington-dc-sanctuary-city-hearing/15979555/>.

<sup>223</sup> Marc Caputo, *Scoop: State Dept. To Use AI To Revoke Visas Of Foreign Students Who Appear 'Pro-Hamas'*, Axios, March 6, 2025, available at: <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/06/state-department-ai-revoke-foreign-student-visas-hamas>.

<sup>224</sup> Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “DHS Launches CBP Home App with Self-Deport Reporting Feature,” March 10, 2025, available at: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/03/10/dhs-launches-cbp-home-app-self-deport-reporting-feature>.

<sup>225</sup> Pl.’s Mtn. to Enforce Court Order re Settlement Agreement and Supporting Memorandum of Law, *Castanon Nava v. Department of Homeland Security*, 18-cv-03737 (N.D. Ill. March 13, 2025), available at: <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/10/05/illinois-national-guard-troops-deployed-chicago-immigration>.

<sup>226</sup> Interim Final Rule, Department of Homeland Security, “Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration,” 90 Fed. Reg. 11793 (March 12, 2025), available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-03-12/pdf/2025-03944.pdf>

**April 24, 2025**

U.S. Department of Transportation threatens to withhold funds from jurisdictions that "declined to cooperate with ICE investigations, have issued driver's licenses to individuals present in the U.S. in violation of federal immigration law, or have otherwise acted in a manner that impedes Federal law enforcement."<sup>227</sup>

**April 30, 2025**

In a newsletter marking 100 days in office, Secretary of State Marco Rubio states that "the State Department has now made clear that a visa is a privilege, not a right.... There is now a one-strike policy: catch-and-revoke.

**April 30, 2025**

Whenever the government catches non-U.S. citizens breaking our laws, we will take action to revoke their status.... This extends to the thousands of foreign students studying in the U.S. who abuse our hospitality.... The State Department now reviews law-enforcement information about student visa holders and when we find those who have supported terrorists or otherwise abused our hospitality, their visas are instantly revoked."<sup>228</sup>

**May 1, 2025**

DOJ files lawsuit challenging implementation of SB 508, amending Illinois' Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act on grounds that it infringes on federal immigration authority.<sup>229</sup>

**May 5, 2025**

CBP rescinds policies for pregnant individuals, medically at-risk individuals, and vulnerable individuals in their custody stating they are either "obsolete or misaligned with current Agency guidance immigration enforcement priorities."<sup>230</sup>

**May 7, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem holds press conference in Springfield, IL, and visits ICE field office where she is filmed questioning two men detained by ICE that morning and in process of being fingerprinted.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>227</sup> Letter from Sean P. Duffy, Secretary of Transportation, to All Recipients of U.S. Department of Transportation Funding (Apr. 24, 2025), available at: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2025-04/Follow%20the%20Law%20Letter%20to%20Applicants%204.24.25.pdf>.

<sup>228</sup> State Department, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, "100 Days of an America First State Department," Apr. 30, 2025, available at: [https://iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.04.30\\_100\\_Days\\_of\\_an\\_America\\_First\\_State\\_Department.pdf](https://iptp-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/2025.04.30_100_Days_of_an_America_First_State_Department.pdf).

<sup>229</sup> *U.S. v. State of Illinois, et. al.*, 1:25-cv-04811 (N.D. Ill. May 1, 2025).

<sup>230</sup> CBP Acting Commissioner Pete Flores, Memorandum, Rescission of Legacy Policies Related to Care and Custody, May 5, 2025, [https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/intc-45073-ac1\\_signed\\_distribution\\_memo\\_5.5.25.pdf](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/intc-45073-ac1_signed_distribution_memo_5.5.25.pdf).

<sup>231</sup> Chip Mitchell & George Wiebe, *What's Known About Springfield Men Told By Homeland Security Chief Kristi Noem They Were Being Deported*, WBEZ May 9, 2025 <https://www.wbez.org/politics/2025/05/09/two-springfield-men-homeland-security-chief-kristi-noem-deported>; Ben Szalinski et. al., *DHS Secretary Kristi Noem's Illinois Stop On Immigration Laws Called 'Publicity Stunt'*, Capitol News Illinois, May 7, 2025, <https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/dhs-secretary-kristi-noem-illinois-stop-on-immigration-laws-called-publicity-stunt/>; Mawa Iqbal et. al., *In Springfield, Visit, Homeland Security Chief Kristi Noem Takes Aim At Gov. Pritzker's Sanctuary Policies*, NPR Illinois, May 7, 2025, <https://www.nprillinois.org/government-politics/2025-05-07/in-springfield-visit-homeland-security-chief-kristi-noem-takes-aim-at-gov-pritzkers-sanctuary-policies>.

**May 15, 2025**

The U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review, Board of Immigration Appeals issues decision in *Matter of Q. Li*,<sup>232</sup> which holds that DHS can place someone in mandatory detention (and deny them the opportunity for a bond hearing before an immigration judge) if they are arrested by immigration officials "shortly" after entering the U.S., even if they were previously released, granted parole and then later re-detained.<sup>233</sup>

**May 22, 2025**

U.S. Department of Justice filed motion seeking to be released from the *Flores Settlement* Agreement in the Central District of California which governed the treatment of migrant children who are detained by DHS after crossing into the U.S. alone or with their families.<sup>234</sup> The motion was denied on August 15.

**May 28, 2025**

Senior White House Adviser Stephen Miller tells Fox News' Sean Hannity that the White House was "looking to set a goal of a minimum of 3,000 arrests for ICE every day and President Trump is going to keep pushing to get that number up higher each and every day."<sup>235</sup>

**May 29, 2025**

DHS issues list of "sanctuary jurisdictions" that will be receiving "formal notification of [] non-compliance and all potential violations of federal criminal statutes." List includes Illinois cities of Berwyn, Evanston, Oak Park and Village of Skokie, as well as Cook County, and is later withdrawn for its inaccuracy.<sup>236</sup>

**May 29, 2025**

Senior White House Adviser Stephen Miller and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem threaten to fire the bottom 10% of regional ICE officials with an insufficient number of arrests.<sup>237</sup>

**May 31, 2025**

Senior ICE officials urged immigration agents to "turn the creative knob up to 11 and push the envelope," and "if it involves handcuffs on wrists, it's probably worth pursuing."<sup>238</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> *Matter of Q. Li* 29 I&N Dec. 66 (BIA 2025), available at: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/media/1400431/dl?inline>.

<sup>233</sup> National Immigration Project, "Community Explainer: What's Happening with Immigration Court Arrests and Bonds," June 2025, [https://nipnlg.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/2025\\_NIPNLG-Courthouse.pdf](https://nipnlg.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/2025_NIPNLG-Courthouse.pdf).

<sup>234</sup> Flores v. Bondi, 2:85-cv-04544 (C.D.Cal.), <https://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Motion-to-Terminate33.pdf>.

<sup>235</sup> Cameron Arcand, *Trump Administration Sets New Goal Of 3,000 Illegal Immigrant Arrests Daily*, Fox News, May 29, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-administration-aims-3000-arrests-illegal-immigrants-each-day>.

<sup>236</sup> Press Release, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "DHS Exposes Sanctuary Jurisdictions Defying Federal Immigration Law," May 29, 2025, available at: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/05/29/dhs-exposes-sanctuary-jurisdictions-defying-federal-immigration-law>.

<sup>237</sup> Reuters, *Trump Administration Ousts Top ICE Officials Amid Migrant Arrest Push*, May 29, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-administration-ousts-top-ice-officials-amid-migrant-arrest-push-2025-05-29/>.

<sup>238</sup> Jose Olivares, *US Immigration Officers Ordered To Arrest More People Even Without Warrants*, The Guardian June 4, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/04/immigration-officials-increased-detentions-collateral-arrests>.

**June 4, 2025**

ICE detains at least 10 people who appeared at a DHS office in the South Loop of Chicago for a routine immigration proceeding.<sup>239</sup> The individuals were part of the “Intensive Supervision Appearance Program,” which allows ICE to monitor individuals prior to their deportation proceeding without placing them in custody; these individuals received a text message to appear for a check-in but instead were met with masked federal immigration agents, handcuffed, and taken into detention.

**June 6, 2025**

DHS begins sweeping immigration raids in Los Angeles.<sup>240</sup>

**June 7, 2025**

President Trump activates 2,000 members of California National Guard into federal services to temporarily protect ICE and other U.S. Government personnel who are performing federal functions.<sup>241</sup>

**June 9, 2025**

700 U.S. Marines deployed to Los Angeles to protect federal buildings.<sup>242</sup>

**June 11, 2025**

White House increases immigration arrest quota to 3,000/day.<sup>243</sup>

**June 11, 2025**

ICE unilaterally ends compliance with *Castanon Nava Consent Decree* by rescinding a policy related to warrantless arrests. As a result, ICE officers begin issuing administrative warrants in the field rather than complying with statutory provisions that require individualized probable cause analysis for arrests without a warrant.<sup>244</sup>

**June 12, 2025**

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker testifies before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.<sup>245</sup>

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<sup>239</sup> Charlie De Mar and Darius Johnson, *ICE Agents Detain Several People At Immigration Supervision Program Site In Chicago*, CBS Chicago June 5, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/ice-agents-arrests-south-loop-immigration-supervision-program/>.

<sup>240</sup> Bill Hutchinson, *LA Protests Timeline: How ICE Raids Sparked Demonstrations And Trump To Send In The Military*, ABC News, June 11, 2025, available at: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-ice-raids-sparked-la-protests-prompted-trump/story?id=122688437>.

<sup>241</sup> Presidential memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, “Department of Defense Security for the Protection of Department of Homeland Security Functions,” June 7, 2025, available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-202500672/pdf/DCPD-202500672.pdf>.

<sup>242</sup> Jaimie Ding, Associated Press, *Pentagon Withdraws 700 Marines From Los Angeles*, PBS News, July 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/pentagon-withdraws-700-marines-from-los-angeles>.

<sup>243</sup> Dan Lamothe, *Pentagon Plans Military Deployment In Chicago As Trump Eyes Crackdown*, The Washington Post, Aug. 23, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/08/23/trump-chicago-military-national-guard/>.

<sup>244</sup> Memorandum Opinion and Order, *Nava v. Department of Homeland Security*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 7, 2025) at 4.

<sup>245</sup> Craig Wall and Stephanie Wade, *Gov. JB Pritzker Testimony On Sanctuary Law Sparks Fiery Exchanges In Washington*, ABC 7 Chicago, June 12, 2025, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/illinois-governor-jb-pritzker-news-governos-testify-washington-dc-front-house-oversight-committee-sanctuary-law/16730373/>.

**June 18, 2025**

ICE attempts to limit congressional oversight by adopting policy requiring members of congress to provide 72-hours' notice before any visit.<sup>246</sup>

**June 24, 2025**

DHS and ICE waive 12-hour limit in holding facilities, permitting immigrant detainees to be held in such facilities for up to 72 hours.<sup>247</sup>

**June 27, 2025**

DHS adopts Interim Final Rule effectuating a fine for individuals with final orders of removal of \$988 for every day after the order is entered that they fail to leave the U.S.<sup>248</sup> As of August 2025, DHS reported that it had imposed more than \$6 billion in fines.<sup>249</sup>

**July 8, 2025**

ICE issues an interim guidance memo providing that anyone who enters the U.S. without inspection is subject to mandatory detention, and ineligible for a bond hearing before an immigration judge, regardless of how long they had been present in the U.S.<sup>250</sup> This position goes beyond the decision reached by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in *Matter of Q. Li*. The BIA subsequently adopted this guidance in a precedential decision on September 5, subjecting thousands of people to mandatory detention. The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California overturned the BIA decision on November 20 and held that ICE's policy was inconsistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act.<sup>251</sup> Although individuals are not entitled to receive bond, this court ruling restores their eligibility to request a bond hearing before an immigration judge.

**July 11, 2025**

Temporary Restraining Order issued in *Perdomo v. Noem*, enjoining federal government from conducting stops in Los Angeles based solely on (i) apparent race or ethnicity; (ii) speaking Spanish or speaking English with an accent; (iii) presence at a particular location (e.g. bust stop car wash, tow yard, lay laborer pick up site, agricultural site, etc.); or (iv) the type of work one does.<sup>252</sup>

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<sup>246</sup> Rebecca Beitsch, *DHS Places New Limits On Lawmakers Visiting ICE Facilities*, The Hill, June 18, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5358006-dhs-lawmakers-visits-ice>.

<sup>247</sup> Memorandum from Monica S. Burke, Assistant Director, Custody Management, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "Nationwide Hold Room Waiver," June 24, 2025, available at:

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mdd.582507/gov.uscourts.mdd.582507.40.3.pdf>.

<sup>248</sup> Imposition and Collection of Civil Penalties for Certain Immigration-Related Violations, 90 Fed. Reg. 27439, June 27, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/27/2025-11965/imposition-and-collection-of-civil-penalties-for-certain-immigration-related-violations>.

<sup>249</sup> Alex Woodward, *Trump Team Has Fined Immigrants Who Didn't Self-Deport \$6 Billion — And Now It's Coming To Collect*, Independent, August 27, 2025, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/migrants-self-deport-fines-trump-administration-b2815156.html>.

<sup>250</sup> ICE Memorandum, Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applications for Admission, AILA Doc. No. 25071607 (July, 8 2025), <https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applications-for-admission>.

<sup>251</sup> ACLU, et. al, "PRACTICE ADVISORY – Seeking Bond Hearings for *Maldonado Bautista* Class Members – Those Who Entered Without Inspection and Are Subject to *Yajure-Hurtado*, Dec. 3, 2025, [https://nwirp.org/uploads/2025/Maldonado%20Bautista%20Practice%20Advisory\\_12%203%202025.pdf](https://nwirp.org/uploads/2025/Maldonado%20Bautista%20Practice%20Advisory_12%203%202025.pdf).

<sup>252</sup> Order Granting Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Applications for Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause Regarding Preliminary Injunction at 6-7, *Perdomo v. Noem*, 2:25-cv-05605-MEM-SP (C.D. Cal. July 11, 2025).

**Aug. 6, 2025**

DHS lowers the minimum age requirement for individuals to become an ICE agent from 21 to 18, and announces signing bonuses, enhanced retirement benefits, overtime opportunities, and more incentives to recruit additional agents.<sup>253</sup>

**Federal attention refocuses on Chicago in late summer**

**Aug. 8, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem hosts press conference in Chicago area to highlight arrests by DHS field office.<sup>254</sup>

**Aug. 11, 2025**

President Trump commented on images that purportedly show protesters spitting on law enforcement officers: "And they're standing there, and people are spitting in their face, and they're not allowed to do anything. But now, they are allowed to do whatever the hell they want."<sup>255</sup>

**Aug. 22, 2025**

USCIS resumes "neighborhood investigations" for naturalized citizens for the first time since 1991.<sup>256</sup>

**Aug. 23, 2025**

Public reports surface that Pentagon is contemplating deployment of National Guard and Active-Duty military members to Chicago in September.<sup>257</sup>

**Aug. 28, 2025**

New York Times reports that the DHS drafted a request to use the Naval Station Great Lakes, near North Chicago, Illinois, for facilities, infrastructure and other logistical needs for immigration enforcement, including space for 250 department personnel, a "Tactical Operations Center", an "Incident Command Post," and storage space for medical supplies and weapons like rubber bullets and tear gas.<sup>258</sup>

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<sup>253</sup> Department of Homeland Security, "Secretary Noem Unveils No Age Limit for Patriotic Americans to Join ICE Law Enforcement to Help Remove Worst of the Worst from U.S.", Aug. 6, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/08/06/secretary-noem-unveils-no-age-limit-patriotic-americans-join-ice-law-enforcement>.

<sup>254</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Noem to Host Press Conference Exposing "Worst of the Worst" Criminal Illegal Aliens in IL, Aug. 8, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/08/08/secretary-noem-host-press-conference-exposing-worst-worst-criminal-illegal-aliens>.

<sup>255</sup> Josh Campbell, *As ICE Escalates Its Tactics, Are Federal Agents Truly 'Untouchable' In The Eyes Of The Law?*, CNN, Nov. 15, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/15/us/ice-federal-agents-immigration-force>.

<sup>256</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Policy Memorandum, Resumption of Personal Investigations of Aliens Applying For Naturalization (INA 335(a)), Aug. 22, 2025, [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual/PM-602-0189\\_INA335.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual/PM-602-0189_INA335.pdf).

<sup>257</sup> Dan Lamothe, *Pentagon Plans Military Deployment In Chicago As Trump Eyes Crackdown*, The Washington Post, Aug. 23, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/08/23/trump-chicago-military-national-guard/>.

<sup>258</sup> Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Plans Immigration Crackdown In Chicago*, The New York Times, Aug. 28, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/28/us/politics/trump-chicago-immigration-naval-base.html>.

**Aug. 31, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem confirms publicly that a surge of resources and enforcement is coming to Chicago.<sup>259</sup>

**Sept. 2, 2025**

President Trump tells reporters, in reference to Chicago, "We're going in. I didn't say when, but we're going in."<sup>260</sup>

**Sept. 2, 2025**

Governor Pritzker, Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle host press conference to inform public of plans to deploy federal agents to Chicago, including raids in Latin communities & staging of National Guard.<sup>261</sup>

**Sept. 2, 2025**

U.S. Department of Justice files lawsuit challenging Illinois law providing in-state tuition and scholarships to individuals regardless of citizenship status.<sup>262</sup>

**Sept. 5, 2025**

Amid reports of federal resources being deployed to Chicago, protests begin at ICE's holding facility in Broadview, Illinois.<sup>263</sup>

**Sept. 5, 2025**

President Trump issues Executive Order 14347 renaming the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

**Sept. 6, 2025**

President Trump posts "Chipocalypse Now" meme on Truth Social. He writes "*I love the smell of deportations in the morning... Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of War*" alongside a photo of himself portrayed as Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore from Apocalypse Now, imposed against a photoshopped backdrop of helicopters and explosions over the Chicago skyline.<sup>264</sup>

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<sup>259</sup> Associated Press, *DHS Secretary Noem Confirms More ICE Resources Are Heading To Chicago For Immigration Crackdown*, WGN TV, Aug. 31, 2025, <https://wgntv.com/news/chicago-news/dhs-secretary-noem-confirms-more-ice-resources-are-heading-to-chicago-for-immigration-crackdown/>.

<sup>260</sup> James Neveau et. al., 'We're Going In: ' Trump Says Federal Intervention Is Coming To Chicago, NBC Chicago, Sept. 2, 2025, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-politics/were-going-in-trump-says-federal-intervention-is-coming-to-chicago/3818520/>.

<sup>261</sup> NBC Chicago Staff, *Pritzker Believes Staging For Federal Enforcement In Chicago 'Has Already Begun'*, NBC Chicago, Sept. 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/pritzker-believes-staging-for-federal-enforcement-in-chicago-has-already-begun/3818551/>.

<sup>262</sup> U.S. v. State of Illinois, et. al., 3:25-cv-1691 (S.D. Ill. Sept. 2, 2025).

<sup>263</sup> Selena Kuznikov, *Demonstrators Block Entrance At Broadview ICE Facility: 'They Know Chicago Doesn't Want ICE In Our City'*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 5, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/05/ice-broadview-immigration-detention-center-enforcement-trump>.

<sup>264</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Sept. 6, 2025 10:38 AM), <https://truthtsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115158096026629509.+>

## Operation Midway Blitz begins

### **Sept. 8, 2025**

ICE announces launch of Operation Midway Blitz, which is reportedly intended to identify and remove individuals with criminal records. In a statement, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin stated, "For years, Governor Pritzker and his fellow sanctuary politicians released Tren de Aragua gang members, rapists, kidnappers, and drug traffickers on Chicago's street – putting American lives at risk and making Chicago a magnet for criminals." The press release identified 11 individuals who they claimed were released by Chicago law enforcement after committing a crime because the City failed to coordinate with immigration authorities.<sup>265</sup>

### **Sept. 8, 2025**

U.S. Supreme Court issues an order granting an application for a stay of the Temporary Restraining Order issued in *Perdomo v. Noem*, regarding ICE's warrantless stops in Los Angeles, effectively allowing the continued use of DHS' raids and detentions based on race, ethnicity, language and other discriminatory characteristics.<sup>266</sup> In a press release, DHS declares the decision a "major victory" but denies that ICE is conducting "indiscriminate stops."<sup>267</sup> DHS also posts to X that "DHS law enforcement will continue to FLOOD THE ZONE in Los Angeles."<sup>268</sup>

### **Sept. 10, 2025**

Gregory Bovino arrives in Chicago to oversee CBP operations. DHS reports that hundreds of ICE agents and vehicles are on standby.<sup>269</sup>

### **Sept. 12, 2025**

ICE agents shoot and kill Silverio Villegas Gonzalez during a traffic stop. DHS initially reported an agent opened fire, fearing for his life, when he sustained multiple injuries and was seriously injured when he was dragged a significant distance by Villegas Gonzalez's car as he fled a traffic stop. Body cam footage would later undermine these statements.<sup>270</sup>

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<sup>265</sup> Department of Homeland Security, "ICE Launches Operation Midway Blitz in Honor of Katie Abraham to Target Criminal Illegal Aliens Terrorizing Americans in Sanctuary Illinois," Sept. 8, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/08/ice-launches-operation-midway-blitz-honor-katie-abraham-target-criminal-illegal>.

<sup>266</sup> Order on Application for Stay, *Noem v. Perdomo*, No. 25A169, 2025 WL 2585637 at \*1, (U.S. Sept. 8, 2025), available at: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169\\_5h25.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf).

<sup>267</sup> Press Release, Department of Homeland Security, "DHS Scores Major Victory at Supreme Court," Sept. 8, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/08/dhs-scores-major-victory-supreme-court>.

<sup>268</sup> Dep't of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (Sept. 8, 2025 11:56 AM), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1965096915319902465>.

<sup>269</sup> CBS Chicago, *Gregory Bovino Arrives In Chicago, Signaling Possible Escalation*, Sept. 10, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEImBoFkx18>.

<sup>270</sup> Emmanuel Camarillo et. al., *Silverio Villegas González, Who Was Killed By ICE Agents, 'Touched The Lives Of So Many'*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 15, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/15/silverio-villegas-gonzalez-fatally-shot-by-ice-agents-touched-the-lives-of-so-many-loved-ones-say>; Tom Schuba and Nader Issa, *ICE Officer Said His Injuries Were 'Nothing Major' After Deadly Shooting Near Chicago, Video Shows*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 22, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/the-watchdogs/2025/09/22/ice-officer-injuries-nothing-major-deadly-franklin-park-shooting-mexican-immigrant-chicago-video>.

### **Sept. 16, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem leads raid in Elgin where low-flying helicopters, armored vehicles, bright lights and smoke bombs were used. Reports indicate that at least seven people were detained, including two U.S. citizens.<sup>271</sup> DHS Secretary Kristi Noem shares video of several men being taken from a home in handcuffs after announcement of Elgin raid, but implies it took place in Chicago, and seems to reference Villegas Gonzalez shooting on Sept. 12 and repeats claim that "This week, a brave @ICEgov 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>272</sup>

### **Sept. 16, 2025**

In a video posted to X, Gregory Bovino announces the initiation of Customs and Border Patrol's "Operation at Large" to "continue the mission we started in Los Angeles – to make the city safer by targeting and arresting criminal illegal aliens."<sup>273</sup>

### **Sept. 16, 2025**

President Trump calls Chicago a "death trap" and says, "I'm going to go to Chicago early, against Pritzker," suggesting he will send the National Guard to Chicago.<sup>274</sup>

### **Sept. 17, 2025**

DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin posts on X: ""2 MILLION illegal aliens are out of the U.S. of American in less than 250 days. Thank you to @POTUS Trump, @Sec\_Noem and our brave DHS law enforcement officers."

### **Sept. 19, 2025**

DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin reports that Operation Midway Blitz has resulted in almost 550 arrests and says that "Every arrest is a testament to DHS and its law enforcement's dedication to enforcing the laws of our nation. We will not be deterred by sanctuary politicians or violent rioters."<sup>275</sup>

### **Sept. 19, 2025**

In a televised interview, Gregory Bovino reports great success here in Chicagoland. "Over the past week alone, several hundred arrests. Those arrests are by ICE who leads

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<sup>271</sup> Cindy Hernandez and Adriana Cardona-Maguigad, *Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem Leads Elgin Raid; 1 U.S. Citizen Among 6 Detained*, Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 16, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/09/16/homeland-security-secretary-kristi-noem-leads-elgin-raid-4-arrested>; Sabrian Franz et. al., *2 U.S. Citizens Among 7 Detained At Early Morning Elgin, Illinois ICE Raid*, CBS Chicago, Sept. 18, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/ice-raid-elgin-illinois/>.

<sup>272</sup> Secretary Kristi Noem (@Sec\_Noem), X (Sept. 16, 2025 9:33 AM), [https://x.com/Sec\\_Noem/status/1967960074212483503?ref\\_src=twsr%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1967960074212483503%7Ctwgr%5E3df0c4c39f086c02ad339ce4cccec8ea9bc77f51%7Ctwcon%5Es1&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fchicago.suntimes.com%2Fimmigration%2F2025%2F09%2F16%2Fhomeland-security-secretary-kristi-noem-leads-elgin-raid-4-arrested](https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1967960074212483503?ref_src=twsr%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1967960074212483503%7Ctwgr%5E3df0c4c39f086c02ad339ce4cccec8ea9bc77f51%7Ctwcon%5Es1&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fchicago.suntimes.com%2Fimmigration%2F2025%2F09%2F16%2Fhomeland-security-secretary-kristi-noem-leads-elgin-raid-4-arrested).

<sup>273</sup> Commander Op at Large CA Gregory K. Bovino (@CMDROpAtLargeCA), X (Sept. 16, 2025, 6:17 AM), <https://x.com/CMDROpAtLargeCA/status/1967910763907195128>.

<sup>274</sup> Todd Feurer, *Trump Threatens To Send Troops To Chicago 'Against Pritzker,' Calling City A 'Death Trap'*, CBS Chicago, Sept. 16, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/president-trump-national-guard-chicago-after-memphis-gov-jb-prizker/>.

<sup>275</sup> CBS News, *Nearly 550 Arrested During Chicago Area Immigration Crackdown So Far, Official Says*, Sept. 19, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/400-ice-arrests-chicago-operation-midway-blitz/>.

Operation Midway Blitz, as well as those allied law enforcement partners" and there are "several hundred law enforcement agents and officers are in Chicago right now and you're gonna see those numbers rise."<sup>276</sup> He also denies that CBP was "looking for people with brown skin and accents," saying they were "looking for immigration violators, folks that have violated our immigration laws, those vile criminals that harm thousands of American citizens each year.... It has nothing to do with skin color, speech or anything else..."<sup>277</sup>

**Sept. 28, 2025**

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth calls 200 members of Oregon National Guard into Federal Service to protect ICE and other federal personnel.<sup>278</sup>

**Sept. 29, 2025**

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi issues a memo directing the ATF, the US Marshals Service, the DEA, and the FBI to direct all necessary officers and agents to defend ICE facilities and personnel "whenever and wherever they come under attack," including in Chicago.<sup>279</sup> The memo also directs the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois to charge all persons suspected of threatening or assaulting a federal law enforcement officer or interfering with the highest provable offense.

**Sept. 30, 2025**

Plaintiffs file notice of additional consent decree violations in *Castanon Nava* alleging that "With Mr. Bovino in charge of immigration enforcement operations in Chicago, [DHS is] taking an aggressive, cavalier and unlawful approach to their enforcement here."<sup>280</sup>

**Oct. 3, 2025**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and Gregory Bovino visit the Broadview holding facility, where they observe protesters and federal law enforcement response.<sup>281</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Command Op At Large CA Gregory K. Bovino (@CMDROpAtLargeCA), X (Sept. 19, 2025 10:54 AM), <https://x.com/CMDROpAtLargeCA/status/1969067551486333060> (with post linking to interview on Fox News, Fox and Friends).

<sup>277</sup> Command Op At Large CA Gregory K. Bovino (@CMDROpAtLargeCA), X (Sept. 19, 2025 10:54 AM), <https://x.com/CMDROpAtLargeCA/status/1969067551486333060> (with post linking to interview on Fox News, Fox and Friends).

<sup>278</sup> Memorandum for the Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard Through: The Governor of Oregon from Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War, "Calling Members of the Oregon National Guard into Federal Service," Sept. 28, 2025, available at: [https://www.opb.org/pdf/SecWar%20Memo%20to%20OR\\_28SEP25\\_175911169994.pdf](https://www.opb.org/pdf/SecWar%20Memo%20to%20OR_28SEP25_175911169994.pdf).

<sup>279</sup> Office of the Attorney General, Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation *et. al.*, "Ending Political Violence Against Ice," Sept. 29, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1415691/dl#:~:text=The%20President%20is%20exactly%20right.and%20prosecute%20to%20the%20fullest>.

<sup>280</sup> Supplemental Notice of Consent Decree Violations, *Castanon Nava v. Department of Homeland Security*, 18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 30, 2025), available at: <https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/205-Nava-v-DHS-Supplemental-Notice-of-Consent-Decree-Violations-Redacted.pdf>.

<sup>281</sup> NBC Chicago Staff, *5 Arrests Made Friday: Latest Scenes From Protests At Broadview ICE Facility*, NBC News Chicago, Oct. 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/officers-in-riot-gear-gas-masks-shields-latest-scenes-from-protests-at-broadview-ice-facility/3833288/>.

**Oct. 4, 2025**

Federal Trump activates 300 members of the Illinois National Guard into federal service to protect federal property and ICE and other U.S. Government personnel executing Federal law.<sup>282</sup>

**Oct. 4, 2025**

Federal district court issues temporary restraining order preventing deployment of Oregon National Guard.<sup>283</sup>

**Oct. 5, 2025**

DHS Secretary Pete Hegseth federalized 400 national guardsmen from Texas, who begin arriving in Chicago on October 8.<sup>284</sup>

**Oct. 5, 2025**

President Trump orders 200 California National Guard and 400 Texas troops to Oregon in response to ruling by federal district court enjoining activation of Oregon National Guard.<sup>285</sup>

**Oct. 6, 2025**

*Chicago Headline Club v. Noem* lawsuit filed by local news organizations and protesters alleging that the federal government had used excessive force.<sup>286</sup> U.S. District Court Judge Sara Ellis issued a temporary Restraining Order on Oct. 9th, which was further extended on October 17th, enjoining the use of force in immigration enforcement in the Northern District of Illinois and ordering agents with body-worn cameras to activate them during arrests.<sup>287</sup>

**Oct. 6, 2025**

Illinois Attorney General files lawsuit challenging deployment of National Guard troops in Illinois.<sup>288</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of War, the Attorney General , and the Secretary of Homeland Security, “Department of War Security for the Protection of Federal Personnel and Property in Illinois,” Oct. 4, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/10/department-of-war-security-for-the-protection-of-federal-personnel-and-property-in-illinois/>.

<sup>283</sup> Conrad Wilson, *Judge Halts Deployment Of Oregon National Guard, Trump Administration Files Appeal*, OPB, Oct. 4, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/10/04/portland-national-guard-deployment-judge-decision/>.

<sup>284</sup> Kaitlin Washburn and Tina Sfondeles, *Illinois, Texas National Guard Troop Mobilization To Begin ‘Immediately,’ Last 60 Days*, WBEZ Chicago, Oct. 5, 2025, <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/10/05/illinois-national-guard-troops-deployed-chicago-immigration>

<sup>285</sup> Tony Schick and Jeff Thompson, *A Timeline Of Trump’s Focus On Portland*, OPB, Oct. 20, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/10/20/trump-focus-portland-timeline/>.

<sup>286</sup> Compl., *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 6, 2025).

<sup>287</sup> Temporary Restraining Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 9, 2025), [https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/chicago\\_headline\\_club\\_v\\_noem - tro.pdf](https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/chicago_headline_club_v_noem - tro.pdf).

<sup>288</sup> Office of the Attorney General, Press Release, Attorney General Raoul Files Lawsuit Against Trump Administration to Stop Unlawful Deployment of National Guard, Oct. 6, 2025, <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/news/story/attorney-general-raoul-files-lawsuit-against-trump-administration-to-stop-unlawful-deployment-of-national-guard>.

**Oct. 7, 2025**

Federal District Court Judge Jeffrey Cummings issues order extending the *Castanon Nava Consent Decree* based on plaintiffs allegations of violations.<sup>289</sup> Judge Cummings issues further order on Nov. 12th ordering the release of individuals who were arrested without a warrant in violation of the settlement agreement.<sup>290</sup> On Dec. 11, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the extension of the consent decree, but ordered individualized determinations on the release of potential class members arrested in violation of the decree.<sup>291</sup>

**Oct. 9, 2025**

Federal District Court Judge April Perry issues a temporary restraining order in *Illinois v. Trump* blocking the federalization and deployment of national guard troops in Illinois.<sup>292</sup> The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals subsequently granted a stay of Judge Perry's order, which allowed the federalization of the national guard to stay in place but prevented deployment of National Guard members.<sup>293</sup>

**Oct. 24, 2025**

In a televised interview, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller says: "But what we need to reassure – a couple of points - to all ICE officers, you have federal immunity in the conduct of your duties. And anybody who lays a hand on you, or tries to stop you or tries to obstruct you, is committing a felony. You have immunity to perform your duties and no one, no city official, no state official, no illegal alien, no leftist agitator or domestic insurrectionist can prevent you from fulfilling your legal obligations and duties."<sup>294</sup>

**Oct. 28, 2025**

Gregory Bovino deposition in *Chicago Headline Club* regarding use of force against protesters and journalists. In a subsequent opinion Judge Sara Ellis calls his testimony "not credible. Bovino appeared evasive over the three days of his deposition, either providing 'cute' responses to Plaintiffs' counsel's questions or outright lying."<sup>295</sup> Judge Ellis also concludes that "Bovino admitted in his deposition that he lied multiple times about the events that occurred in Little Village that prompted him to throw tear gas at protesters."<sup>296</sup>

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<sup>289</sup> Memorandum Opinion and Order, *Castanon Nava v. Department of Homeland Security*, 1:18-cv-03757 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 7, 2025), available at: [https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/214-Nava-v-DHS-Mem-Opinion\\_10-07-25.pdf](https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/214-Nava-v-DHS-Mem-Opinion_10-07-25.pdf).

<sup>290</sup> Press release, National Immigrant Justice Center, "Federal Judge in Chicago Orders ICE to Release Hundreds of People from Detention Centers Who Were Arrested in Likely Violation of Consent Decree," Nov. 12, 2025, <https://immigrantjustice.org/press-release/federal-judge-in-chicago-orders-ice-to-release-hundreds-of-people-from-detention-centers-who-were-arrested-in-likely-violation-of-consent-decree/>.

<sup>291</sup> *Castanon Nava v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, No. 23-3050 (7th Cir. Dec. 11, 2025), available at: [https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Nava-v-DHS-7th-Cir-ruling\\_12-11-2025.pdf](https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Nava-v-DHS-7th-Cir-ruling_12-11-2025.pdf).

<sup>292</sup> Heather Cherone, *Appeals Court Upholds Federal Judge's Temporary Order Blocking National Guard Deployment in Chicago Area*, WTTW, Oct. 16, 2025, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/10/16/appeals-court-upholds-federal-judge-s-temporary-order-blocking-national-guard-deployment>.

<sup>293</sup> *Id.*

<sup>294</sup> Fox News, the Will Cain Show, "Stephen Miller: East Wing was 'cheaply built,' long overdue for renovation," Oct. 24, 2025 (beginning at 6:36), available at: <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6383815895112>.

<sup>295</sup> Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 11, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).

<sup>296</sup> Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 12, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025).

**Oct. 30, 2025**

ACLU files a class action lawsuit, *Moreno Gonzalez v. Noem*, alleging their clients were denied the right to counsel and inhumane conditions at the Broadview ICE detention facility.<sup>297</sup> A Temporary Restraining Order was issued on November 5 requiring defendants to provide adequate facilities and access to counsel.<sup>298</sup>

**Oct. 30, 2025**

DHS reports that nearly 3,000 arrests had been made by ICE and CBP as part of Operation Midway Blitz.<sup>299</sup>

**Gregory Bovino leaves Chicago, but threat continues to loom**

**Nov. 6, 2025**

Judge Sara Ellis enters preliminary injunction in *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, enjoining DHS from using force against journalists, including using riot control weapons or gas cannisters, and requiring agents to wear a visible numeric identifier and body-worn cameras.<sup>300</sup> The order was paused on November 19, but on November 20, Judge Ellis issued a 233-page opinion outlining the basis for the injunction, including that the federal governments “widespread misrepresentations call into question everything that Defendants say they are doing in their characterization of what is happening at the Broadview facility or out in the streets of the Chicagoland area during law enforcement activities.”<sup>301</sup> The lawsuit was later dropped by plaintiffs on Dec. 2.<sup>302</sup>

**Nov. 11, 2025**

DHS confirms that Gregory Bovino is leaving Chicago and the Command Center at Naval Station Great Lakes would be closing by mid-November.<sup>303</sup>

**Nov. 17, 2025**

Remaining 200 members of Texas National Guard leave Chicago.<sup>304</sup>

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<sup>297</sup> Compl., *Moreno Gonzalez v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-13323 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 30, 2025), available at: <https://litigationtracker.justiceactioncenter.org/cases/moreno-gonzalez-v-noem-ice-detention-conditions-illinois-district-court/complaint-pdf>.

<sup>298</sup> Temporary Restraining Order, *Moreno Gonzalez v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-13323 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 5, 2025), available at: [https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/moreno\\_gonzalez\\_v\\_noem\\_-\\_temporary\\_restraining\\_order.pdf](https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/moreno_gonzalez_v_noem_-_temporary_restraining_order.pdf).

<sup>299</sup> Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Border Patrol Takes Lead Role In Trump Administration’s Chicago Crackdown, Carrying Out More Arrests Than ICE*, CBS News, Oct. 30, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/border-patrol-trump-administrations-chicago-crackdown-more-arrests-than-ice/>.

<sup>300</sup> Preliminary Injunction Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 6, 2025), available at: [https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/chicago\\_headline\\_club\\_v\\_noem\\_-\\_tro.pdf](https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/chicago_headline_club_v_noem_-_tro.pdf).

<sup>301</sup> Opinion and Order, *Chicago Headline Club v. Noem*, 13-14, 1:25-cv-12173 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2025), available at: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/11/20/operation-midway-blitz-ruling/>.

<sup>302</sup> Mina Bloom, *Chicago Media Groups Voluntarily Drop Excessive Force Lawsuit Against Feds*, Block Club Chicago, Dec. 2, 2025, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/12/02/chicago-media-groups-voluntarily-drop-excessive-force-lawsuit-against-feds/>.

<sup>303</sup> Mina Bloom, *Border Patrol Chief Gregory Bovino Leaving Chicago Soon; DHS To Maintain Presence: Sources*, ABC 7 Chicago, Nov. 11, 2025, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/customs-border-protection-cmdr-greg-bovino-leaving-chicago-soon-dhs-expected-maintain-presence-sources/18143038/>.

<sup>304</sup> Heather Cherone, *Decision to send Texas National Guard Home Represents ‘Unconditional Surrender’: Mayor Brandon Johnson*, WTTW Nov. 17, 2025, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/11/17/decision-send-texas-national-guard-home-represents-unconditional-surrender-mayor-brandon>.

**Nov. 19, 2025**

*Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership v. Noem* lawsuit filed by coalition of clergy members alleging that federal officials denied them entry to Broadview holding facility.<sup>305</sup>

**Dec. 12, 2025**

Federal district court rules that there is no longer an emergency justifying the federal activation of the California National Guard and orders that they be released from federal orders.<sup>306</sup>

**Dec. 16, 2025**

Gregory Bovino and federal immigration agents return to Chicago and are observed conducting arrests.<sup>307</sup>

**Dec. 23, 2025**

U.S. Supreme Court rules that federalization of National Guard members to protect federal personnel and property in Illinois was unlawful.<sup>308</sup>

**Jan. 7, 2026**

Renee Good shot by ICE officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota<sup>309</sup>

**Jan. 21, 2026**

Illinois Department of Human Rights files housing discrimination charge to investigate Chicago landlord's role in ICE raid of South Shore apartment building.<sup>310</sup>

**Jan. 24, 2026**

Alex Pretti shot by ICE officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.<sup>311</sup>

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<sup>305</sup> *Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-14168 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 19, 2025).

<sup>306</sup> Shawn Hubler, "Appeals Court Stays Trump Must End Los Angeles Deployment By Monday," The New York Times, Dec. 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/13/us/california-national-guard-trump-los-angeles.html>.

<sup>307</sup> Matt Masterson, *Border Patrol Chief Greg Bovino Back In Chicago As Federal Immigration Operations Ramp Back Up*, WTTW, Dec. 16, 2025, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/12/16/border-patrol-chief-greg-bovino-back-chicago-federal-immigration-operations-ramp-back>.

<sup>308</sup> *Trump v. Illinois*, No. 25A443 (U.S. Dec. 23, 2025).

<sup>309</sup> Bill Chappell & Juliana Kim, What We Know One Day After the Killing of Renee Good by an ICE Agent in Minneapolis, NPR, Jan. 8, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/08/nx-s1-5671061/minneapolis-ice-shooting-noem>.

<sup>310</sup> IDHR, "Illinois Files Housing Discrimination Charge to Investigate Chicago Landlord's Role in Ice Raid," Jan. 21, 2026, <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/idhr-news-and-events/idhr-to-investigate-landlord-and-ice-activities.html>.

<sup>311</sup> Joshua Barajas, A Second U.S. Citizen Was Killed By Federal Forces in Minneapolis. Here's What We Know, PBS News, Jan. 16, 2026 (updated Jan. 27), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/a-second-u-s-citizen-was-killed-by-federal-forces-in-minneapolis-heres-what-we-know>.

## APPENDIX B: Primer on U.S. Immigration Law

The U.S. immigration system is governed by a web of statutes, regulations, and policies. While the immigration statutes have not substantially changed in the last few decades, regulations and policies are constantly changing. The same immigration laws apply in Illinois as in New York or Texas. States can pass legislation to limit their cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and can enact pro-immigrant policies, but they cannot determine who can be in the country lawfully or who is deported.

### Federal Agencies

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contains many of the agencies that enforce federal immigration law. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for immigration enforcement in the interior of the country. It can arrest and detain non-citizens, place them in removal proceedings, and deport them if they have final orders of removal.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for interdiction and processing of individuals attempting to enter or exit the U.S. at the U.S. Border. It determines who is allowed to enter the country through ports of entry and arrests individuals near the border who have crossed illegally. Traditionally, CBP has led enforcement within 100 miles of the U.S. border, but not within the interior of the U.S. During Operation Midway Blitz, however, both ICE and CBP were present in Illinois even though Chicago is not within 100 miles of the border.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the agency within DHS which adjudicates affirmative applications for naturalization and immigration benefits, such as a green card or an extension of temporary immigration status. Individuals must often go to USCIS offices for interviews before their applications are approved.

There are other departments that also play a role in the immigration system. The Department of Justice houses the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), which consists of the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). When ICE arrests someone and initiates removal proceedings against them, it is EOIR that determines whether to issue a final order of removal that allows ICE or CBP to deport them from the country.

The Department of State is responsible for granting and denying visas for individuals outside of the U.S. An individual who is eligible for a visa to come to the U.S. will often need to go through what is called “consular processing,” which typically involves paperwork and an interview at the U.S. consulate in that individual’s country.

The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the care of unaccompanied minors who are in the U.S. without a parent or other legal guardian.

### Immigration Statuses

There are many different immigration statuses. A person may be a U.S. citizen, either because they were born in the U.S., because one or both of their parents were U.S. citizens, or because they are naturalized. DHS does not have authority to arrest, detain, or deport U.S. citizens.

Naturalized U.S. citizens can be denaturalized if they committed fraud or lied during the naturalization process. U.S. citizens by birth cannot lose their citizenship unless they are voluntarily performing certain acts with the intent to renounce it (like becoming a citizen of another country, serving in a foreign military hostile to the U.S., or committing treason).

Non-citizens may be lawful permanent residents (commonly known as green card holders or LPRs). Despite the word “permanent” in the name, LPRs can be deported if they are convicted of certain crimes or perform certain other acts, such as unlawful voting. People commonly become LPRs by being sponsored by family members or employers, or after obtaining asylum or refugee status. Non-citizens may also have a “non-immigrant” status. A “non-immigrant” status simply means a status that has an end date unless it is extended. Students, temporary workers, and tourists are all in non-immigrant status. Unlike in the case of lawful permanent residents, the government can cancel someone’s non-immigrant status at any time, although there are rules, they must follow in order to do so.

There are many individuals in the U.S. who do not fall into these categories. Some individuals are on parole, which is temporary permission from the government to enter and remain in the U.S. for a particular period of time. Parole can be cancelled at any time. Other individuals are in the process of applying for an immigration status but have not yet received it. Some examples include people who are applying for green cards or asylum and are waiting for an interview or a court date. They may also be eligible for a permanent resident visa, but in a very backlogged category which may have a years-long waiting list. Many individuals on parole or with pending applications have work authorization, which allows them to legally work in the U.S. Nevertheless, they do not have an immigration status in the traditional sense and may be subject to arrest and detention.

Some individuals do not have pending applications but have been granted something called “deferred action,” which defers their deportation for a particular period of time. Individuals with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) fall into this category. The government can also revoke deferred action, at which point these individuals are subject to arrest, detention, and possible deportation.

Finally, there are individuals who have no lawful immigration status, commonly known as being “undocumented.” These individuals may have once had a lawful immigration status but lost it, have a final order of removal, or have had no prior contact with the immigration system. These individuals are all at risk of arrest and detention.

## Immigration Enforcement and Detention

ICE and CBP have authority to arrest any non-citizen who they have probable cause to believe is present in violation of the immigration laws of the U.S. That includes LPRs who have committed deportable offenses, non-citizens who have violated the terms of their non-immigrant status, individuals on parole, those waiting for a decision on their immigration applications but who are not in lawful status, and people who are undocumented. ICE and CBP cannot arrest an individual first and then determine whether an immigration violation has occurred later. ICE officers are subject to the Fourth Amendment against unreasonable searches and seizures and must have probable cause before an arrest.

Once an individual is arrested, DHS has authority to detain them pending resolution of their immigration case. If an individual has an order of removal, they can be deported without any further process.

If an individual is arrested at or near the border, they can be placed in a process called “expedited removal,” which means that DHS can enter a removal order without involving an immigration judge. Individuals subject to expedited removal have the right to an interview to determine if they have a credible fear of returning to their home country. If they do, they are placed in removal proceedings for adjudication of the asylum claim.

If an individual is arrested in the interior of the country and does not have a removal order, ICE files a document called a “Notice to Appear” in immigration court, which initiates removal proceedings. The Notice to Appear is similar to an indictment in criminal court; it lays out the alleged violations of the immigration laws the individual has committed. A person with a Notice to Appear cannot be deported until an immigration judge orders their removal and, if an appeal is filed, after the Board of Immigration Appeals dismisses their appeal. Non-citizens who lose at the Board of Immigration Appeals can appeal to the federal appellate courts, but they must obtain a stay of removal if they want to remain in the country while their appeal is pending.

Removal proceedings vary in length. For a person who is detained, they may take up to six months or, if there is an appeal, a year or longer. For a person who is not detained, they can take anywhere from a year to ten years depending on the backlog in a particular immigration court. There are currently almost 3.5 million removal cases pending in immigration courts nationwide. In removal proceedings, an individual can argue that they are not removable, or they can seek relief from removal. Common forms of relief include asylum, adjustment of status through a family member, or a form of relief called cancellation of removal, which allows a small number of removable individuals to remain in the U.S. with a green card.

ICE has broad authority to detain non-citizens during and after their removal proceedings. Some people are subject to mandatory detention. This includes people convicted of or arrested for certain crimes as well as people who are arrested at ports of entry attempting to enter the country. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, all other non-citizens who are detained by ICE are entitled to bond hearings where they must argue that they are not a flight risk or a danger to the community. Within the past year, however, ICE has adopted what is, in effect, a policy of mandatory detention without bond hearings. This policy has been successfully challenged through habeas corpus petitions in federal district court hundreds of times but has yet to be overruled by a federal appellate court or rescinded by ICE. The immigration judge can set a bond and if the individual pays the bond, they will be released under certain conditions.

Individuals who entered the country without inspection (i.e. crossed illegally) are entitled to a bond hearing unless they have been convicted of or arrested for certain crimes. However, a recent Board of Immigration Appeals decision has reinterpreted the statute to subject all individuals who entered without inspection to mandatory detention, vastly expanding the number of individuals subject to mandatory detention. This change in interpretation has been resoundingly rejected by almost every federal court to consider it; however, ICE continues to detain people and immigration judges continue to deny bond on this basis. For individuals subject to mandatory detention, ICE can choose to release them on parole.

Historically, most people subject to mandatory detention, with the exception of people with serious criminal convictions, were granted parole and released by ICE. This is no longer the case, and ICE will not grant parole absent extremely rare circumstances such as in the case of someone who is pregnant or has a medical condition that ICE cannot manage in detention. Due to horrible conditions in immigration detention, many people have agreed to voluntarily depart rather than remain in detention.

After an individual receives a final order of removal, ICE may detain them during the “removal period,” which is six months. After six months, individuals may file habeas petitions to be released, but ICE will not proactively release them. ICE must first attempt to remove an individual to the country named in the removal order, which is usually their country of origin. However, in cases in which an individual cannot be removed to their country, ICE can remove individuals to third countries, even countries to which they have no connection and have never been. This occurs either because their country refuses to accept them, because the immigration judge determined that they were at risk of torture or persecution there, or because they are stateless.

Although immigration detention is “civil,” it is indistinguishable from and in many cases worse than criminal incarceration. With the numbers of detentions increasing, detention facilities have become crowded, understaffed, and under-resourced. Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025. Although ICE does maintain a few detention facilities, most immigration detainees are held in private prisons and local jails that rent space to the federal government. Because Illinois does not allow local jails to rent beds to ICE, all people arrested in Illinois are transferred out of state after a brief time in a processing facility. Most people are initially sent to Wisconsin, Indiana, or Michigan, but may be sent anywhere in the country. Some people are moved multiple times during their removal proceedings and after they receive a final order of removal.

## Federal Criminal Immigration Offenses

Although most violations of immigration laws are civil violations, there are a few immigration-related federal crimes. Entering the country without inspection is a crime as is reentering the country after a previous deportation. Historically, these crimes have mostly been prosecuted against people at or near the border. These crimes have been more frequently charged and in more jurisdictions since January 2025.



THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION, HOUSED WITHIN THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (IDHR), IS TO CREATE A PUBLIC RECORD OF THE CONDUCT OF FEDERAL AGENTS DURING “OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ” AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MILITARY-STYLE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CHICAGOLAND AREA. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMISSION WILL EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF THAT CONDUCT ON INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AND CONSIDER POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT FUTURE HARM IN ILLINOIS.

# Need urgent assistance?

**Call the Illinois Coalition for  
Immigrant & Refugee Rights  
(ICIRR) Family Support Network  
Hotline**

1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

**(1-855-435-7693)**

\*available in English, Spanish, Korean and Polish

**Fill out The Resurrection Project's  
(TRP)  
Detained Loved One Form**

<https://resurrectionproject.tfaforms.net/f/iceraid>

\*available in English and Spanish

Visit [www.illinoisimmigrationinfo.org](http://www.illinoisimmigrationinfo.org) for additional information.



## Immigrant and Citizenship Rights Resources

Visit [dhr.illinois.gov/immigrant-and-citizenship-rights.html](https://dhr.illinois.gov/immigrant-and-citizenship-rights.html)

The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) administers the [Illinois Human Rights Act](#). The IL Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination in Illinois with respect to employment, financial credit, public accommodations, housing and sexual harassment, as well as sexual harassment in education.

Learn more or file a charge of discrimination at  
<https://dhr.illinois.gov/filing-a-charge.html>.



### Employment Protections for Immigrants and Non-Citizens FAQ

Know your rights at the workplace, including equal treatment based on national origin, citizenship, and type of work authorization.



### Housing Discrimination Protections for Immigrants & Non-Citizens FAQ

Know your rights in your home or apartment, including equal treatment based on national origin and immigration status.



### The Illinois Immigration Information Hub

Learn about constitutional rights and best practices when encountering law enforcement - and find essential resources from community partners.



### Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement FAQ

If you have experienced discrimination or abuse from your employer, you may be eligible for certain immigration protections. Learn more.



### U Visa and T Visa Certification FAQ

If you have been victim of a crime and are willing to assist local law enforcement, or have experienced human trafficking, you may be eligible for certain immigration protections.



### DCFS Immigration Enforcement Resources for Families & Daycare Providers

Read guidance on immigration enforcement actions at day care facilities.