

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General

ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE



July 19, 2018

Mr. Ronald D. Vitiello
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Vitiello:

I write to express concern and request information about recent immigration detentions in the District of Columbia by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). According to news and community reports, between Monday, July 9, and Thursday, July 12, 2018, as many as twelve District residents were taken into custody by ICE in predominantly Latino communities. Disturbingly, some reports suggest that individuals may have been apprehended indiscriminately or as a result of racial or ethnic profiling.

The District of Columbia strives to ensure that all its residents feel safe and secure. Last week's incidents are precisely the kind that spark fear in our city, undermine public safety by discouraging victims of and witnesses to crimes from coming forward and, more broadly, undermine the ability of our immigrant communities to participate fully in the civic life of the District. Transparency about the policies and procedures ICE follows when engaging in enforcement activity is central to the ability of our immigrant communities to feel secure here. In the past, the District has requested information through the Freedom of Information Act to clarify ICE's policies on enforcement actions in order to attain that kind of transparency.¹ I do so again now in furtherance of the same ends.

To better understand ICE's enforcement activities in the District, I request that ICE send my office the following information about the arrests made the week of July 9:

¹ FOIA Request to ICE, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, and U.S. Customs & Border Protection (June 29, 2017), attached as Exhibit A to Complaint, *Massachusetts, et al v. DHS, et al.*, Case No. 1:17-cv-12022-FDS (D. Mass, filed Oct. 17, 2017).

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- Names of the individuals taken into custody in the District;
- Addresses and location descriptions where those individuals were taken into custody;
- Reason(s) why each person was taken into custody, including their immigration status, criminal history, or any indication that the individual has no criminal history, whether there was a detainer or administrative warrant for the individual, and any history of claims of asylum or other relief from removal; and
- Where each individual is being held.

In addition, I request the following information:

- (1) any policies related to these immigration enforcement actions;
- (2) any policies related to racial or ethnic profiling;
- (3) any policies related to the requisite level of suspicion necessary for ICE to apprehend or detain an individual;
- (4) any policies related to a requirement, or lack thereof, that ICE agents clearly identify themselves during enforcement actions; and
- (5) any policies related to immigration enforcement actions taken in public arenas, such as on the street or in places of business.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl A. Racine', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Karl A. Racine

Attorney General for the District of Columbia