



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chairman Jim Jordan

CALIFORNIA: THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTUARY POLICIES

Interim Staff Report

Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Jim Jordan

Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement
Chairman Tom McClintock

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Democrats' open-borders policies at the federal level and sanctuary policies at the state and local level allow millions of illegal aliens to pour into the country and ensure that criminal aliens, after encountered by local law enforcement, are released back into American communities. For four years, the Biden-Harris Administration's open borders allowed over eight million illegal aliens to enter the United States, including six million aliens who were released into the country and another two million "gotaways" who avoided apprehension entirely.¹ Once in the country, sanctuary policies in Democrat-run jurisdictions like California allow criminal aliens to stay, hurting public safety and endangering law-abiding Americans.

Many Democrat-run state and local jurisdictions prohibit law enforcement from cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that criminal aliens are transferred to ICE custody and removed from the United States. Led by far-left officials and guided by radical immigration policies, these sanctuary jurisdictions provide a safe haven for criminal aliens. Democrat prosecutors in certain sanctuary jurisdictions provide foreign national criminals preferential prosecutorial treatment—leniency that similarly situated Americans do not receive—so that the criminal aliens may avoid immigration consequences for their criminality and can remain in the United States indefinitely.

The American people elected President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans with a mandate to secure the border, restore immigration enforcement, and reverse Democrats' immigration agenda. President Trump's border enforcement agenda has worked, and illegal alien apprehensions at the southwest border are at historic lows.² Congressional Democrats, however, oppose the President's commonsense solutions to improve border security and immigration enforcement. To thwart this law-and-order approach and to protect criminal and illegal aliens, Democrats at the federal level shut down the federal government for months in 2025 and 2026. Their obstruction ensured that many of the hardworking men and women of the Department of Homeland Security were unpaid and unable to fully carry out their mission to protect the homeland.

¹ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., Table 1: Detention Histories of CBP Encounters, January 20, 2021 – March 31, 2024 (Aug. 16, 2024); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Custody and Transfer Statistics*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed July 8, 2025); Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Biden-Harris Administration has admitted more than 1 million migrants into U.S. under parole policy Congress is considering restricting*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 22, 2024); *Latest UC Data, Total Monthly Discharges to Individual Sponsors Only*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Off. of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *CBP Releases December 2024 Monthly Update*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Jan. 14, 2025); Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Daily SWB Placemat*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (May 2024-Jan. 2025) (on file with Comm.); Off. of Homeland Sec. Statistics, *Immigr. Enf't and Legal Processes Monthly Tables – Apr. 2024*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Casey Harper, *Border crisis creates national security threat for U.S., observers say*, WASH. EXAMINER (Aug. 7, 2023); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (June 20, 2024, 10:22 AM).

² See, e.g., Press Release, Trump Administration Delivers 14 Straight Months of Zero Releases at the Border, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (July 16, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/16/trump-administration-delivers-14-straight-months-zero-releases-border>.

Meanwhile, at the state and local level, Democrats' sanctuary policies continued to wreak havoc on American communities. Because sanctuary jurisdictions routinely refuse to cooperate with ICE, officials in these sanctuary jurisdictions release criminal aliens onto the streets instead of transferring them to ICE for removal from the country. According to ICE information, between October 2022 and early 2026, sanctuary jurisdictions declined to honor at least 41,085 detainers from ICE.³ A detainer is the formal request that a state or local law enforcement agency notify ICE before releasing a criminal alien or that the agency maintain custody of a criminal alien for a short period until ICE is able to arrest them in a secure setting.⁴ By refusing to honor ICE detainers, state and local jurisdictions guarantee that dangerous foreign national criminals—even illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious, violent crimes—are released into American communities and free to reoffend.

Sanctuary jurisdictions pose a significant threat to public safety and the enforcement of federal immigration law. The Committee on the Judiciary, with its Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, has been conducting oversight of these sanctuary policies. Since January 2026, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested information relating to jurisdictions that restrict or prohibit cooperation with federal immigration officials, including their policies' devastating effects on public safety. To date, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested relevant material from 40 officials in 13 sanctuary jurisdictions across the country.

This interim staff report focuses on the state of California and the cities of San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, which have obstructed federal law enforcement with their sanctuary policies for years. Nonpublic documents and data obtained by the Committee and Subcommittee reveal the startling extent to which California actively obstructs the enforcement of federal immigration law and shields foreign national criminals from accountability. The Committee and Subcommittee's oversight reveals:

- **Because of California's sanctuary policies, local law enforcement officers have been forced to release repeat and dangerous criminals onto California streets.** Within the past year alone, state and local law enforcement have not honored detainers for aliens whose criminal histories include assault, burglary, aggravated assault with a weapon, and a sex offense.⁵ Law enforcement agencies were even forced to decline detainers for multiple aliens charged with or convicted of homicide.⁶
- **California cities have ignored ICE detainers for thousands of criminal aliens since 2020.** The Los Angeles Police Department honored only 0.096 percent of the nearly 4,200 detainers it received from 2020 through early June 2026.⁷ In San Francisco, state

³ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

⁴ See Immigr. Detainers, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026).

⁵ Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Oct. 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See *infra* notes 82-83 and accompanying text.

and local laws and policies have forced the Sheriff's Office to refuse to honor a single detainer since 2020, despite receiving 2,201.⁸ Since 2023, sanctuary laws and policies have prohibited the San Diego County Sheriff's Office from honoring 2,527 ICE detainees, ensuring dangerous foreign nationals were free to reoffend.⁹

- **One victim of California's sanctuary policies appeared before the Subcommittee in September 2026 and blamed California law and California's Democrat leaders for failing his daughter.** Anatoly Varfolomeev is the father of Anya Varfolomeeva, who was killed by a twice-deported illegal alien from Mexico who was repeatedly attracted to and protected by California's sanctuary laws. Anatoly testified that sanctuary policies enabled his daughter's death, endanger Americans, and are "madness."¹⁰

This interim report provides evidence of the ways in which three cities and one state have implemented policies that allow dangerous foreign nationals to reoffend and avoid deportation. But California, its sanctuary cities, and their leaders are not outliers. They are indicative of a modern, radical, socialist Democrat Party that seeks to erase national borders and place illegal alien criminals ahead of law-abiding American citizens. The policies supported by these Democrats, including sanctuary policies, will have negative and lasting consequences for Americans. The Committee and Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of these sanctuary policies to inform potential legislative reforms to better protect American communities.

⁸ See *infra* note 107 and accompanying text.

⁹ See *infra* note 68 and accompanying text.

¹⁰ See *infra* notes 115-117 and accompanying text.

SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS

A “sanctuary city” or “sanctuary jurisdiction” is a city or jurisdiction that refuses to cooperate, or limits cooperation, with federal authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration law.¹¹ Under the principle that “illegal aliens do not have the right to remain in the U.S. undetected and unapprehended,”¹² Congress has explicitly prohibited any restriction on communication between state or local entities and federal immigration authorities relating to an individual’s immigration status.¹³

Despite the statute’s clear prohibition on cities, counties, and states from restricting communication with federal immigration authorities, there are, according to an estimate from the Center for Immigration Studies, upward of 200 such sanctuary jurisdictions in the United States. These jurisdictions:

[H]ave laws, ordinances, regulations, resolutions, policies, or other practices that obstruct immigration enforcement and shield criminals from [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)]—either by refusing to or prohibiting agencies from complying with ICE detainers, imposing unreasonable conditions on detainer acceptance, denying ICE access to interview incarcerated aliens, or otherwise impeding communication or information exchanges between their personnel and federal immigration officers.¹⁴

Sanctuary jurisdictions range from entire states—such as Colorado, California, New York, and Illinois—to major cities—such as Chicago; New Orleans; New York, Newark, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; and Seattle—to entire counties like Fairfax County, Virginia.¹⁵

Sanctuary jurisdictions’ refusal to cooperate with ICE, including by not honoring ICE detainers, means that dangerous aliens are released back onto American streets. To ensure that criminal aliens are safely apprehended and deported, ICE issues detainers for aliens who have been arrested and who ICE has “probable cause to believe . . . [are] removable” from the United States.¹⁶ With a detainer, ICE “sends a formal request to a law enforcement agency or correctional facility that has custody of a potentially dangerous alien” and asks the law enforcement agency to notify ICE “as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien” and to “[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time they would

¹¹ See WILLIAM A. KANDEL, CONG. RSCH. SERV., IFI14328, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: POLICY OVERVIEW (2020); see also SARAH PECK, CONG. RSCH. SERV., R44795, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICIES AND RELATED LITIGATION 3-4 (2019).

¹² H. Rep. No. 104-469, part 1, at 277 (1996).

¹³ See 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a).

¹⁴ Jessica M. Vaughan, *Map: Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States*, CENTER FOR IMMIGR. STUDIES (June 29, 2026), <https://cis.org/Map-Sanctuary-Cities-Counties-and-States> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026). The list of sanctuary jurisdictions compiled by the Center for Immigration Studies is broader than the Justice Department’s list.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Immigr. Detainers*, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 28, 2026).

ordinarily release them so DHS has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law.”¹⁷ Notably, these aliens are in the custody of a state or local law enforcement agency for a criminal offense—not because they entered the country illegally or otherwise lack lawful status.

Despite the effectiveness of detainers, in the first 12 months of President Trump’s second term, state and local law enforcement agencies declined at least 17,864 ICE detainers, including for aliens charged with crimes ranging from sexual assault to murder, according to ICE data.¹⁸ In its 2019 report, ICE again warned that sanctuary jurisdictions were “[o]ne of the biggest impediments to [ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations’] public safety efforts.”¹⁹ In addition to harming communities, refusing to honor ICE detainers also endangers law enforcement officers as they must resort to taking custody of the alien in an uncontrolled environment.²⁰

The Biden-Harris Administration worked to weaken the first Trump Administration’s efforts to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for undermining immigration enforcement.²¹ In addition to dropping federal litigation relating to sanctuary jurisdictions’ policies,²² the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice Department, beginning in April 2021, no longer required jurisdictions to cooperate with ICE as a condition of receiving federal grant funding.²³ The number of ICE detainers fell precipitously as a result, from a monthly average of 13,000 to 14,000 during the first Trump Administration to a mere 2,200 detainers in March 2021—just two months after President Biden took office.²⁴ Although the Biden-Harris Administration gradually increased its use of immigration detainers in response to public pressure against its immigration policies, it still issued 31 percent fewer detainers than the first Trump Administration.²⁵

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

¹⁹ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2019 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17 (2020), <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2019/eroReportFY2019.pdf>; see also U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2020 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17-18 (2021), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/library/reports/annual-report/eroReportFY2020.pdf> (emphasizing the impact of non-cooperative jurisdictions).

²⁰ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Q&A: U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t Declined Detainer Outcome Rep. (DDOR) (Mar. 20, 2017), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/20/qa-us-immigration-and-customers-enforcement-declined-detainer-outcome-report>.

²¹ See Sarah N. Lynch, *U.S. Justice Department ends Trump-era limits on grants to 'sanctuary cities'*, REUTERS (Apr. 28, 2021, 8:31 AM), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/exclusive-us-justice-department-ends-trump-era-limits-grants-sanctuary-cities-2021-04-28/>.

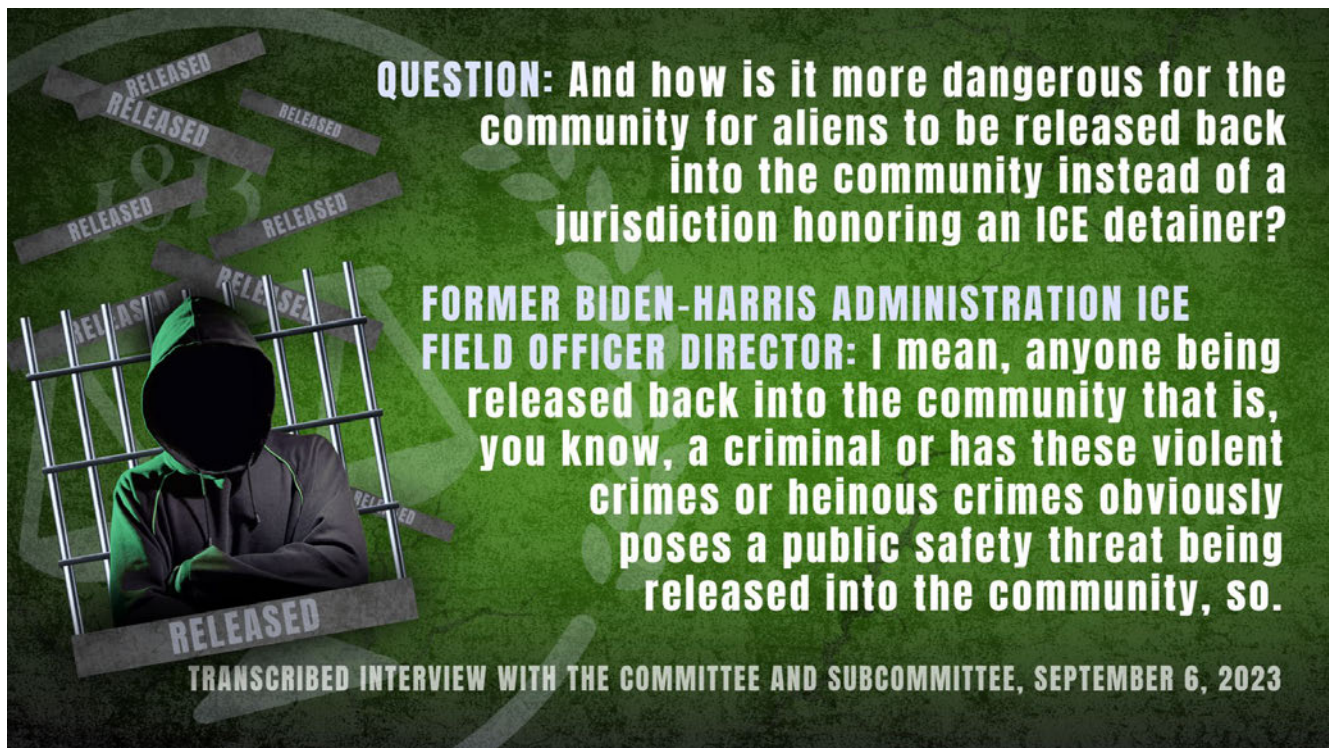
²² Amy Howe, *Court dismisses “sanctuary cities” petitions*, SCOTUS BLOG (Mar. 5, 2021, 10:58 AM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2021/03/court-dismisses-sanctuary-cities-petitions/>; see City Att’y of San Francisco, *Final victory for San Francisco in sanctuary city case against Trump administration* (Mar. 4, 2021), <https://www.sfcityattorney.org/2021/03/04/final-victory-for-san-francisco-in-sanctuary-city-case-against-trump-administration/>.

²³ See Lynch, *supra* note 21.

²⁴ *New Data on ICE Immigration Detainers Show Sharp Drop Since Start of Biden Administration*, TRAC IMMIGR. (June 20, 2023), <https://trac.syr.edu/reports/719/>.

²⁵ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2024 ICE Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 21 (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/eoy/iceAnnualReportFY2024.pdf>; U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2018 ICE Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 9, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/eroFY2018Report.pdf>.

Even Biden-Harris Administration ICE officials criticized sanctuary policies for endangering the public and law enforcement alike. In a transcribed interview with the Committee in 2023, one former high-ranking ICE official testified that sanctuary jurisdictions' refusal to honor ICE detainers endangers ICE officers and undermines ICE's mission.²⁶ Another Biden-Harris Administration ICE official told the Committee how detainer noncompliance for violent criminals "poses a public safety threat being released into the community."²⁷ One former ICE official even attributed sanctuary policies to potentially undermining national security.²⁸ Another Biden-Harris Administration ICE official testified that ignoring ICE detainers endangers officers and the public because ICE is then forced to arrest criminal aliens at large in the community rather than in the secure setting of a jail or prison.²⁹



Since the start of President Trump's second term, the federal government has acted swiftly against sanctuary policies. In an executive order signed on January 20, 2025, President Trump directed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to "evaluate and undertake any lawful actions to ensure that so-called 'sanctuary' jurisdictions, which seek to interfere with the lawful exercise of Federal law enforcement operations, do not receive access to Federal funds."³⁰

²⁶ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 1, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 79-80 (Sept. 22, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

²⁷ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 2, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 36 (Sept. 6, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

²⁸ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 3, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 23 (June 27, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

²⁹ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 4, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 87-88 (Oct. 10, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

³⁰ Exec. Order No. 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

President Trump also instructed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to “undertake any other lawful actions, criminal or civil, that they deem warranted based on any such jurisdiction’s practices that interfere with the enforcement of Federal law.”³¹ On February 19, 2025, President Trump signed an additional executive order to “ensure[] that Federal funds to states and localities will not be used to support ‘sanctuary’ policies or assist illegal immigration.”³²

On April 28, 2025, President Trump signed another executive order that directed the Attorney General to “publish a list of States and local jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws,” “notify each sanctuary jurisdiction regarding its defiance of Federal immigration law enforcement and any potential violations of Federal criminal law,” and “pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to end these violations and bring such jurisdictions into compliance” with federal law.³³ The Justice Department produced its initial list of sanctuary jurisdictions in August 2025.³⁴ The most recent list from October 2025 identified 11 states, the District of Columbia, three counties, and 18 cities—meaning that, conservatively, about one-third of the U.S. population lives under dangerous sanctuary policies.³⁵ The number of Americans living under sanctuary policies may actually be much higher, however, as the Center for Immigration Studies estimates that the number of sanctuary jurisdictions is closer to 200.³⁶

SANCTUARY POLICIES IN CALIFORNIA

California’s Sanctuary Policies

California represents one of the most prominent examples of a sanctuary jurisdiction. In 2013, then-Governor Jerry Brown signed the Trust Act into law.³⁷ Under the Trust Act, illegal aliens “would have to be charged with or convicted of a serious offense to be eligible for a 48-hour hold and transfer to U.S. immigration authorities for possible deportation.”³⁸ In October 2017, Governor Brown signed additional legislation limiting the ability of state and local law enforcement to work with federal immigration officials, “prohibit[ing] local officials from asking about a person’s immigration status or from working in many cases with federal immigration

³¹ *Id.*

³² Fact Sheet, President Donald J. Trump Ends Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders, WHITE HOUSE (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-ends-taxpayer-subsidization-of-open-borders/>.

³³ Exec. Order No. 14287, Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens, 90 Fed. Reg. 18761 (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/02/2025-07789/protecting-american-communities-from-criminal-aliens?>.

³⁴ Press Release, Justice Department Publishes List of Sanctuary Jurisdictions, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-publishes-list-sanctuary-jurisdictions>.

³⁵ U.S. Sanctuary Jurisdiction List Following Executive Order 14287: Protecting American Communities From Criminal Aliens, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/us-sanctuary-jurisdiction-list-following-executive-order-14287-protecting-american-communities> (last accessed Jan. 20, 2026).

³⁶ See Vaughan, *supra* note 14.

³⁷ Patrick McGreevy, *Signing Trust Act is another illegal-immigration milestone for Brown*, L.A. TIMES (Oct. 5, 2013, 7:36 PM), <https://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-brown-immigration-20131006-story.html>.

³⁸ *Id.*

agents,” except in cases in which aliens have been convicted of certain crimes.³⁹ Under California law, law enforcement is prohibited from (1) providing information about a criminal alien’s release date or (2) transferring a criminal alien to immigration authorities,⁴⁰ unless the alien “has been convicted of a serious or violent felony,” such as murder, rape, kidnapping, or burglary; “a felony punishable by imprisonment in the state prison;” or “a misdemeanor for a crime that is punishable as either a misdemeanor or a felony for, or has been convicted within the last 15 years of a felony for,” crimes ranging from child abuse to battery.⁴¹

When California law enforcement offices receive an ICE detainer or a request for advance notification of a criminal alien’s release, California law requires the local law enforcement agency to provide “a copy of the request to the individual and inform the individual whether the law enforcement agency intends to comply with the request.”⁴² California law requires any compliance with ICE detainers to also align with local laws,⁴³ which frequently restrict *any* cooperation with ICE.

California law also allows for the transfer of criminal aliens with a judicial warrant.⁴⁴ Judicial warrants are not required under federal law and are not possible in the overwhelming majority of immigration cases unless a foreign national is charged with a *federal* crime.⁴⁵ In testimony to the Immigration Subcommittee in May 2026, former Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares explained the impossibility of obtaining a judicial warrant for most criminal aliens:

Q: Well, is a federal judicial warrant possible to obtain in a state crime?

A: No, it’s not, and they know this.

Q: And if deportation is a civil matter, how does one get a federal judicial warrant?

A: You can’t. Again, they know this.

Q: So, they’re basically lying to the public? They are counting on the public not understanding that what they are asking for is legally impossible?

³⁹ David Siders, *Brown signs ‘sanctuary state’ bill in California*, POLITICO (Oct. 5, 2017, 2:47 PM), <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/05/california-sanctuary-city-jerry-brown-signs-243503>.

⁴⁰ Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284.6(a)(1)(C), (4).

⁴¹ Cal. Gov’t Code § 7282.5(a).

⁴² Cal. Gov’t Code § 7283.1(b).

⁴³ Cal. Gov’t Code § 7282.5(a).

⁴⁴ Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284.6(a)(4).

⁴⁵ See *Fairfax Cnty., Va.: The Dangerous Consequences of Sanctuary Policies: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enf’t of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (May 14, 2026) (testimony of former Va. Att’y Gen. Jason Miyares).

A: It's legally impossible, yes, Mr. Chair.⁴⁶

In late September 2026, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law that requires ICE agents to “present judicial warrants when making arrests within a thousand feet of a courthouse.”⁴⁷

The state of California has also devoted state taxpayer funds to obstructing federal immigration enforcement. On February 7, 2025, Governor Newsom “approved \$50 million for legal defenses against the Trump [A]dministration.”⁴⁸ Half of the funding is earmarked for “nonprofits providing legal aid to immigrants facing deportation, eviction[,] and other threats from federal action.”⁴⁹

Although Governor Newsom claims that the state of California cooperates with federal immigration officials,⁵⁰ the state’s refusal to honor ICE detainers “resulted in the release of 4,561 criminal illegal aliens” from January 20, 2025, through early February 2026.⁵¹ In fact, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation admits that California “will not hold an individual past their scheduled release date” for ICE to take custody of the criminal alien.⁵² As of February 2026, “ICE ha[d] 33,179 active detainers for criminal illegal aliens in California’s local, state, and federal prisons.”⁵³

This year alone, law enforcement agencies throughout California have been forced to decline detainers for numerous criminal aliens in their custody. Because of California’s sanctuary laws, in 2026 state and local law enforcement have not honored detainers for aliens whose criminal histories include assault, burglary, aggravated assault with a weapon, and a sex

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ Rami Alarian & Anthony Victoria, *Newsom signs immigration bills authored by Inland Empire state senators*, KVCN NEWS (Sept. 30, 2026, 3:22 PM), <https://www.kvcnnews.org/california-news/2026-09-30/newsom-signs-immigration-bills-authored-by-inland-empire-state-senators>.

⁴⁸ Eric He, *Newsom approves \$50M in ‘Trump-proofing’ funds for California*, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2025, 7:30 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/07/newsom-trump-proofing-funds-00203203>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ See, e.g., Press Release, Governor’s Office demands Kristi Noem learn to Google before sending stupid letters: California works with ICE to deport criminals, Off. of Calif. Gov. (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2026/02/06/governors-office-demands-kristi-noem-learn-to-google-before-sending-stupid-letters-california-works-with-ice-to-deport-criminals/>.

⁵¹ Press Release, SANCTUARY CALAMITY: DHS and ICE urgently call on Gavin Newsom and sanctuary California to not release 33,179 criminal illegal aliens including murderers, sex offenders, and drug traffickers from jails back into California communities, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf’t (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/sanctuary-calamity-dhs-and-ice-urgently-call-gavin-newsom-and-sanctuary-california>.

⁵² *Interaction with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*, Calif. Dep’t of Corrections and Rehabilitation, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/interaction-with-the-u-s-immigration-and-customs-enforcement/> (last accessed Oct. 8, 2026).

⁵³ Press Release, DHS Urgently Calls on Gavin Newsom and Sanctuary California to Not Release 33,179 Criminal Illegal Aliens from Jails Back into California Communities, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/02/10/dhs-urgently-calls-gavin-newsom-and-sanctuary-california-not-release-33179-criminal>.

offense.⁵⁴ Law enforcement agencies were even forced to decline detainers for multiple aliens charged with or convicted of homicide.⁵⁵

California's sanctuary policies have had deadly consequences for years. In February 2022, David Mora Rojas shot and killed his three daughters and another man during a supervised visit with his children.⁵⁶ Mora Rojas "overstayed his visa after entering California from his native Mexico" in December 2018.⁵⁷ Five days before Mora Rojas killed his children, authorities arrested him for "resisting arrest, battery on a police officer[,], and driving under the influence."⁵⁸ Although ICE requested notification from local law enforcement upon Mora Rojas's release from custody, the sheriff's office blamed California law for Mora Roja's ability to "walk[] out of jail a free man."⁵⁹ The Biden-Harris Administration's ICE "did not take any additional steps to deport him after he was released on bail."⁶⁰

Less than four years before Mora Rojas committed mass murder, another illegal alien was released under California's sanctuary laws just two days before he committed a "reign of terror" in Tulare County, California.⁶¹ That illegal alien's crime spree included one murder, several attempted murders, multiple shootings, an armed robbery, and a high-speed chase.⁶²

San Diego's Sanctuary Policies

Many local jurisdictions in California enacted even harsher sanctuary policies following President Trump's election in November 2024. In December 2024, the San Diego Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance to "prohibit county law enforcement from assisting ICE in deporting migrants, giving more protection than they have under California's existing sanctuary laws."⁶³ Although the state sanctuary law includes exceptions for aliens convicted of certain serious crimes, "the county ordinance adds another layer of bureaucracy" to create a "super

⁵⁴ Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Oct. 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ Topher Gauk-Roger, *Officials identify father who killed 3 of his kids and an adult before killing himself at a Sacramento church*, CNN (Mar. 1, 2022, 6:48 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/28/us/sacramento-church-shooting/index.html>.

⁵⁷ Associated Press, *Father who killed 3 daughters in church overstayed visa to stay in US. New details on 'AR style' gun released*, ABC 10 (Mar. 4, 2022, 3:21 PM), <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/sacramento/gunman-who-killed-3-daughters-in-sacramento-church-was-in-us-illegally/103-c0b15e60-3802-4166-8b68-1f0df5ffa73>.

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ Gilbert Cordova, *Sheriff Scott Jones: California's sanctuary state policies allowed deadly church shooting to happen*, ABC 10 (Mar. 5, 2022, 12:35 PM), <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/sacramento/sacramento-county-sheriff-scott-jones-church-shooting/103-c4538114-6591-4eda-bba9-3d091d1e714c>.

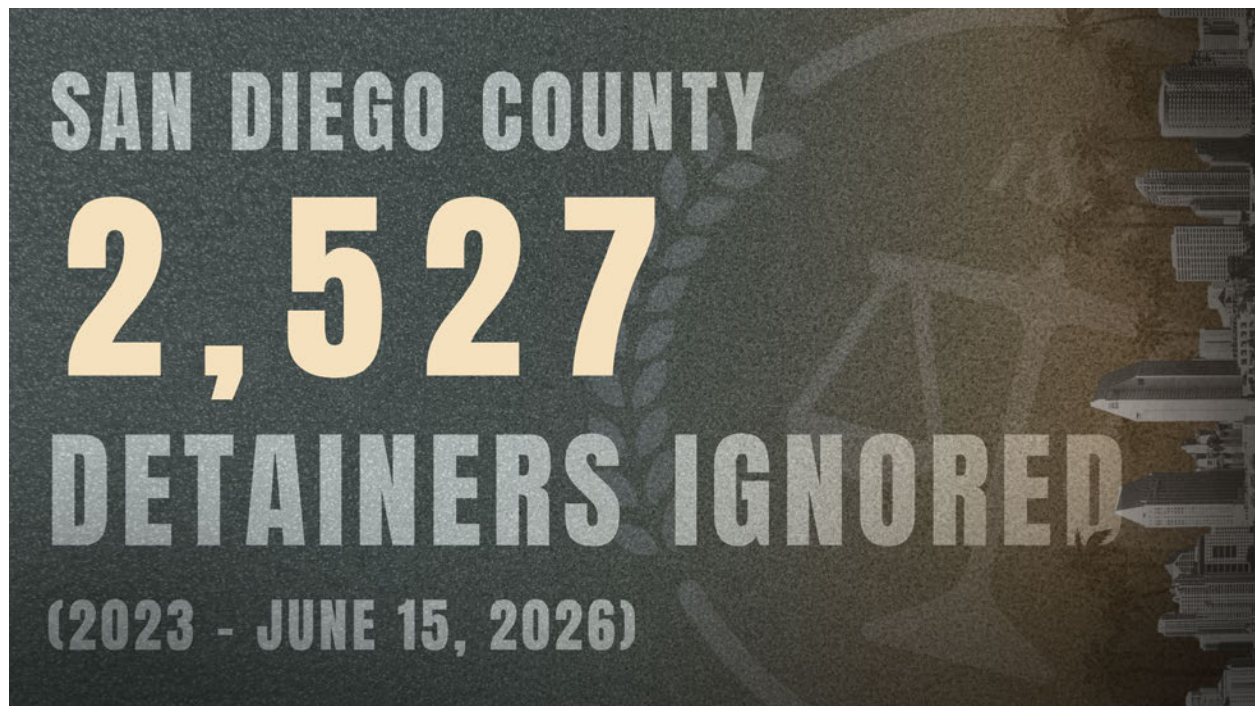
⁶⁰ Associated Press, *Father who killed 3 daughters in church overstayed visa to stay in US. New details on 'AR style' gun released*, *supra* note 57.

⁶¹ *The Biden-Harris Border Crisis: Victim Perspectives: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 118th Cong. (Sept. 10, 2024) (statement of Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, Tulare County, Calif.), <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/Boudreaux-Testimony.pdf>.

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ Jeff Arnold, *San Diego County votes to become 'super sanctuary' for migrants*, NEWS NATION (Dec. 13, 2024, 4:54 AM), <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/new-ordinance-san-diego-countys-sanctuary-status/>.

sanctuary status,” according to County Supervisor Jim Desmond.⁶⁴ The ordinance requires a judicial warrant before local law enforcement can honor a detainer for *any* criminal alien, even those convicted of the serious offenses excepted under state law.⁶⁵



Following the passage of the ordinance, San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez made clear that the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office (SDSO) would follow state law, which she noted did not include a “loophole” for further limiting cooperation with ICE for the most dangerous criminals in her custody.⁶⁶ Sheriff Martinez has also stated that “[t]he Board of Supervisors does not set policy for the Sheriff’s Office.”⁶⁷

Despite Sheriff Martinez’s disapproval of the Board of Supervisor’s actions, her office is forced to comply with California law and cannot honor simple ICE detainers. SDSO was forced to decline 2,527 detainers from January 1, 2023, through June 15, 2026, rejecting 874 detainers in 2023, 202 detainers in 2024, 894 detainers in 2025, and 557 detainers from January 1 through June 15, 2026.⁶⁸ Since April 2026, law enforcement agencies located in San Diego and Imperial

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ See Shari Rendall, *San Diego County Adopts Sanctuary Policy on Steroids*, FAIR (Dec. 16, 2024), <https://www.fairus.org/legislation/state-and-local/san-diego-county-adopts-sanctuary-policy-steroids>.

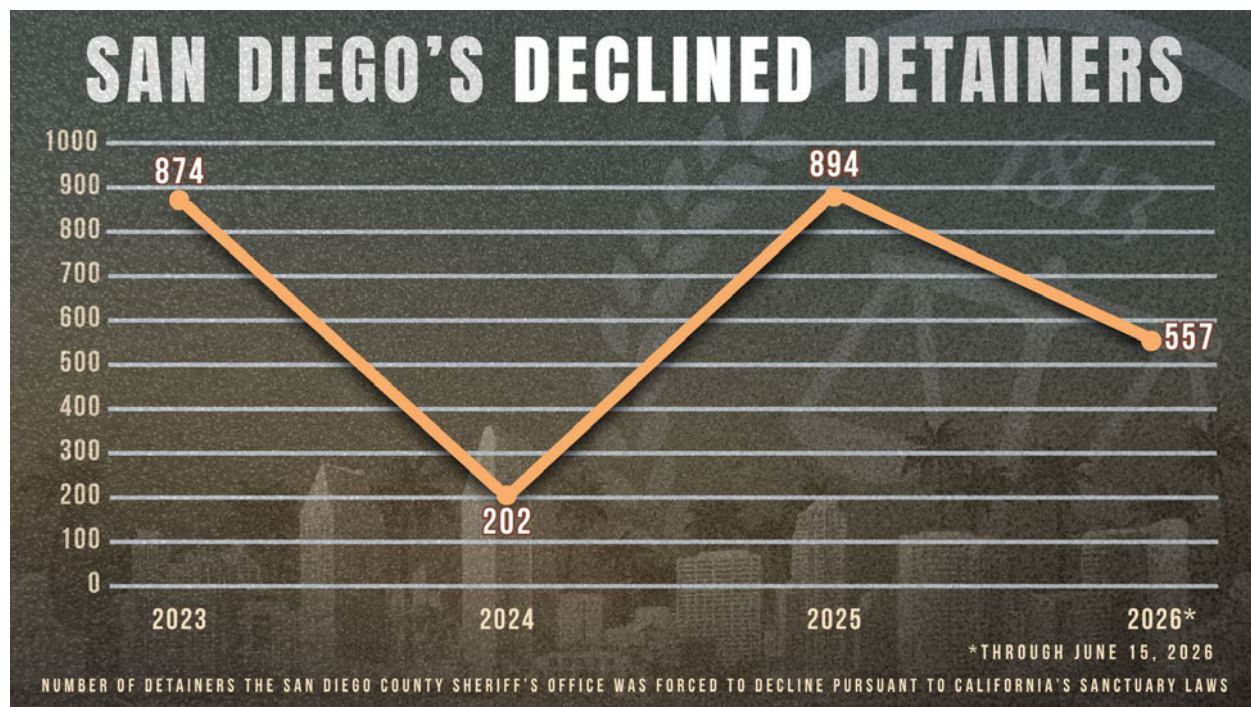
⁶⁶ See Press Release, Statement on Board of Supervisors Vote on Immigr. Enf’t: Sheriff’s Off. to continue following state law, San Diego Cnty. Sheriff’s Off. (Dec. 10, 2024, 5:15 PM), <https://www.sdsheriff.gov/Home/Components/News/News/3102/514>.

⁶⁷ David Gotfredson, *San Diego Sheriff speaks out about county policy limiting ICE cooperation*, CBS 8 NEWS (Jan. 20, 2025, 6:38 PM), <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/san-diego-sheriff-rejects-county-policy-ice-cooperation/509-70bd4a18-d4d4-4822-aeb6-7b2a2a91324c>.

⁶⁸ Letter from San Diego Cnty. Sheriff’s Off. to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (June 16, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

Counties⁶⁹ have not honored 857 detainees for aliens whose criminal histories included extortion, burglary, arson, assault, sexual assault, stolen property, robbery, kidnapping, larceny, homicide, fraud, drug offenses, and weapons offenses.⁷⁰ During that timeframe, the San Diego County Jail alone did not honor 493 detainees, with San Diego County’s Vista Detention Facility not honoring 277 detainees.⁷¹

San Diego’s sanctuary policies have tragic consequences. In November 2025, an illegal alien from Mexico hit and killed 11-year-old Aiden Antonio Torres De Paz as the child “was playing with another child and chasing his soccer ball at the end of a residential street outside his home.”⁷² After the illegal alien’s arrest, ICE lodged a detainer against him, which SDSO, citing California law, rejected.⁷³ In 2025, the state’s sanctuary policies also led to rejected detainees in San Diego for an illegal alien arrested for “willful cruelty to [a] child and assault with deadly weapon using force causing possible great bodily injury” and another illegal alien arrested for “aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and battery on an ex-spouse.”⁷⁴



⁶⁹ San Diego Field Off., Area of Responsibility, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, <https://www.ice.gov/field-office/san-diego-field-office> (last accessed Oct. 27, 2026).

⁷⁰ See Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Oct. 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The referenced detainees were issued since January 2025 and were not honored since April 2026. See *id.*

⁷¹ See *id.*

⁷² Josh Christenson, *Mexican migrant accused of killing boy, 11, in LA hit-and-run was previously kicked out of US 4 times: DHS officials*, N.Y. POST (Dec. 2, 2025, 6:50 PM), <https://nypost.com/2025/12/02/us-news/mexican-migrant-who-killed-11-year-old-in-la-hit-and-run-was-kicked-out-of-us-four-times-dhs-officials/>.

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ Press Release, SANCTUARY CALAMITY: DHS and ICE urgently call on Gavin Newsom and sanctuary California to not release 33,179 criminal illegal aliens including murderers, sex offenders, and drug traffickers from jails back into California communities, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/sanctuary-calamity-dhs-and-ice-urgently-call-gavin-newsom-and-sanctuary-california>.

Los Angeles's Sanctuary Policies

In November 2024, the Los Angeles City Council hardened its sanctuary city stance, unanimously passing an ordinance to prevent “city resources from being used to carry out federal immigration enforcement.”⁷⁵ In line with state and local sanctuary laws, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) prohibits compliance with ICE detainers, forbids ICE from accessing “any custody facility or station jail,”⁷⁶ prevents officers from asking about a criminal's immigration status,⁷⁷ and even forbids officers from assisting ICE agents who request backup for an immigration arrest.⁷⁸

Custody Services Division (CSD) has been asked to provide the number of ICE detainers that LAPD has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2020, to the present. Please see chart below.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	*Total
ICE Detainer Requests	1268	363	783	631	430	419	283	4,177
Detainer/Transfer Requests Honored	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
ICE Warrants Received**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	19	35

* The numbers reflect Detainers and Warrants received as of 6/5/2026

** All ICE Warrants are honored.

Above: An internal LAPD document provided to the Committee and Subcommittee reveals that LAPD routinely releases criminal aliens back onto Los Angeles streets instead of cooperating with ICE.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is similarly forbidden from cooperating with federal immigration officials. LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell has made clear that LAPD will not cooperate with ICE or assist with immigration enforcement.⁷⁹ LAPD, citing state law,

⁷⁵ Jesus Jimenez, *Los Angeles City Council Passes 'Sanctuary' Ordinance in Response to Trump*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/us/los-angeles-sanctuary-trump.html>.

⁷⁶ Custody Div. Manual, Volume 6 – Station Jail Manual, 6-11/070.00 Immigr. and Customs Enf't Detainer Notification, <https://pars.lasd.org/Viewer/Manuals/14249/Content/19101#!>.

⁷⁷ Manual of Policy and Procedures, Volume 5 – Line Procedures, Chapter 9 – Miscellaneous Line Procedures, 5-09/271.00 – Immigr. Inquiries and Notifications, <https://pars.lasd.org/Viewer/Manuals/10008/Content/12429#!>.

⁷⁸ Newsletter 25-04, Potential Scenarios Related to Immigr. Operations (July 10, 2025), <https://pars.lasd.org/Viewer/Manuals/15183/Content/21502>.

⁷⁹ Libor Jany & Richard Winton, *Jim McDonnell sworn in as LAPD chief amid concerns over immigration enforcement*, L.A. TIMES (Nov. 8, 2024, 5:05 PM), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-11-08/city-council-jim-mcdonnell-lapd-chief>.

prohibits ICE from interviewing criminal aliens in its custody, refuses to honor ICE detainers,⁸⁰ and does not even “inquire into or collect information about an individual’s citizenship or immigration status” in many circumstances.⁸¹

Instead of cooperating with federal immigration officials, LAPD is forced by state and local law to release thousands of foreign national criminals back onto California streets. From January 1, 2020, through June 5, 2026, LAPD received 4,177 ICE detainers and honored only four.⁸² In other words, LAPD honored only 0.096 percent of all detainers it received since 2020 and has not honored a single ICE detainer since honoring three in 2021.⁸³ Since April 2026, law enforcement agencies located in the Los Angeles metropolitan area and California’s Central Coast⁸⁴ have not honored 41 detainers for aliens whose criminal histories included assault, weapons offenses, family offenses, and kidnapping.⁸⁵

The effects of Los Angeles’s longstanding pro-criminal alien policies have been devastating. Herbert Nixon Flores, an illegal alien from El Salvador, “had been ordered removed and physically deported from the United States 10 times” since 1990.⁸⁶ His criminal history “included carrying a concealed weapon, trespassing, burglary, disturbing the peace, possession and transportation of a controlled substance, impersonation, driving under the influence, driving without a license, driving with a suspended license, resisting arrest, vandalism, criminal threats and illegal entry.”⁸⁷ On September 7, 2020, he was arrested “for a domestic violence with injury charge by [LAPD].”⁸⁸ The next day, ICE lodged a detainer with LAPD, but local law enforcement released Nixon Flores onto California streets.⁸⁹ Four months later, Nixon Flores murdered his ex-girlfriend in front of their young child.⁹⁰ In other cases, LAPD’s compliance with sanctuary laws meant declining detainers for criminal aliens who were later arrested for

⁸⁰ Community Policing and Immigr.: A Guide to LAPD’s Policies, Frequently Asked Questions, L.A. Police Dep’t (2025), <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/Immigration-Booklet-Rev-6-06-26-25.pdf>.

⁸¹ Special Order No. 1, Enforcement of United States Immigr. Laws (Mar. 4, 2025), https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/03_04_25_SO_No._1_Enforcement_of_US_Immigration_Laws_Department_Immigration_Liaison_Officer_and_Federal_Immigratio.pdf; *see* Community Policing and Immigr.: A Guide to LAPD’s Policies, *supra* note 80.

⁸² OSS Project No-2026 Congressional Request Regarding Dep’t Immigr. Policies and Enf’t-Related Records (June 5, 2026), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Los Angeles Police Dep’t (June 22, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁸³ *See id.*

⁸⁴ The area includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. *See* Los Angeles Field Off., Area of Responsibility, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, <https://www.ice.gov/field-office/los-angeles-field-office> (last accessed Oct. 27, 2026).

⁸⁵ Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t (Oct. 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The referenced detainers were issued since January 2025 and were not honored since April 2026. *See id.*

⁸⁶ Press Release, Dangerous California sanctuary policy leaves 3 victims in wake of fatal shooting, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t (Jan. 11, 2021), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dangerous-california-sanctuary-policy-leaves-3-victims-wake-fatal-shooting>.

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ *Id.*

⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁹⁰ Matthew Ormseth, *Man charged with ex-girlfriend’s murder is found dead in Texas*, L.A. TIMES (Jan. 9, 2021, 5:58 PM), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-09/man-charged-with-ex-girlfriends-murder-is-found-dead-in-texas>.

committing serious crimes, including murder.⁹¹

San Francisco's Sanctuary Policies

San Francisco's sanctuary policies have existed for nearly four decades, beginning with the city's passage of the "City and County of Refuge Ordinance" in 1989.⁹² Under San Francisco's sanctuary ordinances, the city's "employees may not use [San Francisco] resources to" ask about an individual's immigration status or cooperate with any "ICE investigation, detention, or arrest."⁹³ San Francisco prohibits the use of "resources to assist in the enforcement of Federal immigration law,"⁹⁴ restricts information sharing about a criminal alien's release date,⁹⁵ and further limits compliance with ICE detainees.⁹⁶ Law enforcement officers in San Francisco are prohibited from responding to federal immigration officers unless a foreign national criminal has been convicted of a violent felony in the last seven years or convicted of a serious felony within the past five years.⁹⁷ In February 2025, San Francisco led a lawsuit against the Trump Administration's immigration enforcement efforts, claiming the President made "repeated threats to penalize local governments for their laws protecting [illegal aliens] from deportation."⁹⁸

One of the most notorious examples of San Francisco's sanctuary policies is the death of Kate Steinle.⁹⁹ The 32-year-old woman was shot and killed by an illegal alien who law enforcement officials in San Francisco had released "from custody instead of turning him over to immigration authorities."¹⁰⁰ A jury eventually acquitted the illegal alien after his defense attorney "said the shooting was accidental and the bullet ricocheted off the ground and traveled about 80 feet before hitting Steinle."¹⁰¹ He later pleaded guilty to federal firearms charges and

⁹¹ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't Declined Detainer Rep., Fiscal Year 2018, Second Quarter, at 3-4 (2018), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-report/ICE-Declined-Detainer-Report.pdf>.

⁹² See Sanctuary City Ordinance, City of San Francisco, <https://www.sf.gov/information--sanctuary-city-ordinance> (last accessed Oct. 19, 2026).

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ San Francisco Administrative Code § 12H.2.

⁹⁵ San Francisco Administrative Code § 12H.2(c).

⁹⁶ San Francisco Administrative Code § 12I.3. Sheriff Paul Miyamoto has explained that his office may provide ICE notice of a criminal alien's release date but only if the alien has a conviction for a small subset of "violent felonies" or "serious felonies" within a specific timeframe and the ICE request is accompanied by a judicial warrant, which is not possible in the overwhelming majority of cases. See SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S OFF., Sheriff Immigration Message – English version (YouTube, Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0p8x3B29TLs&t=56s>. Even then, his office must overcome myriad bureaucratic hurdles simply to ensure that dangerous foreign nationals are not released onto San Francisco streets. *Id.*

⁹⁷ San Francisco, Cal., Admin. Code Sec. 12H (1989), *amended by* Ord. 96-16, File No. 160022 (2016); see Sanctuary City Ordinance, CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, <https://sf.gov/information/sanctuary-city-ordinance>.

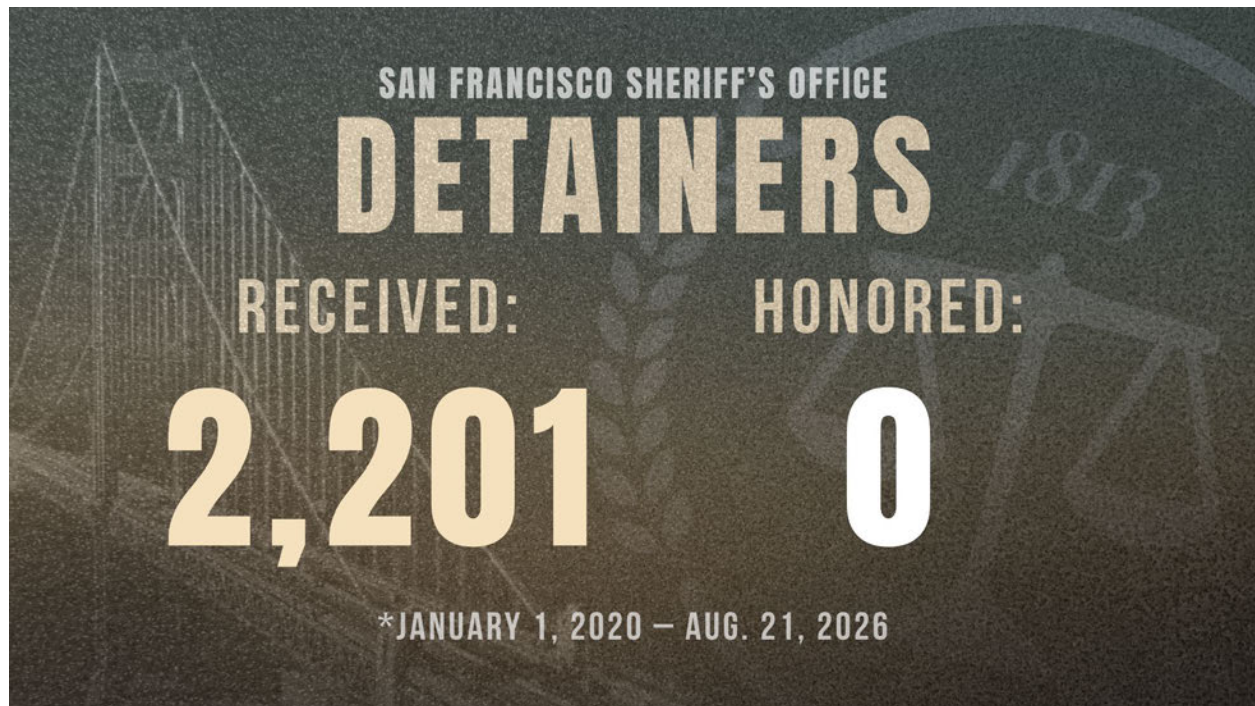
⁹⁸ Dustin Gardiner & Blake Jones, *San Francisco sues Trump, alleging 'authoritarian' threats against sanctuary cities*, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2025, 3:46 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/07/san-francisco-sues-trump-sanctuary-cities-00203155>.

⁹⁹ Holly Yan & Dan Simon, *Undocumented immigrant acquitted in Kate Steinle death*, CNN (Dec. 1, 2017, 2:21 AM), <https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/us/kate-steinle-murder-trial-verdict>.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ *Id.*

“admitted that on July 1, 2015, he was on San Francisco Embarcadero Pier 14 and possessed a semi-automatic pistol loaded with eight rounds.”¹⁰²



After the start of President Trump’s second term and the resumption of federal immigration enforcement, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) reminded officers to not enforce “ICE administrative warrants/holds.”¹⁰³ Similarly, the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department’s (SFSD) policy manual prohibits the office’s compliance with ICE detainers and allows the sheriff alone to “exercise discretion to respond to DHS/ICE requests for notification of release from Sheriff’s custody if the subject of that request meets” limited criteria under San Francisco’s administrative code.¹⁰⁴

Even when confronted by the dangerous effects of sanctuary policies, San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto has defended sanctuary policies.¹⁰⁵ In 2025, he boasted that “out of thousands of requests for detention” from ICE, his office had “only honored one.”¹⁰⁶ According to data provided to the Committee and Subcommittee, from January 1, 2020, to August 21, 2026,

¹⁰² Press Release, Jose Inez Garcia-Zarate Pleads Guilty To Federal Firearm Charges In Death Of Kate Steinle, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 14, 2022), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/pr/jose-inez-garcia-zarate-pleads-guilty-federal-firearm-charges-death-kate-steinle>.

¹⁰³ 25-027, Reminder: ICE Administrative Arrest Warrants, San Francisco Police Dep’t (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/your-sfpd/policies/departments-bulletins-25-027>.

¹⁰⁴ See 4.11.2 Policy, Immigr., Administration and Field Operations Policy Manual, San Francisco Sheriff’s Dep’t (Nov. 18, 2024), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by San Francisco Sheriff’s Dep’t (on file with Comm.).

¹⁰⁵ Josh Hopkins, *San Francisco Sheriff Says his Department Won’t Cooperate With ICE*, DAILY CALLER (Feb. 19, 2020, 5:37 PM), <https://dailycaller.com/2020/02/19/san-francisco-not-cooperating-with-ice/>.

¹⁰⁶ Luz Pena, *SF Mayor Lurie stands by city’s sanctuary policy | Here’s what it means amid ICE detainments*, ABC 7 NEWS (June 13, 2025), <https://abc7news.com/post/san-francisco-mayor-daniel-lurie-stands-sanctuary-policy-prevents-immigration-enforcement-doesnt-keep-ice/16736830/>.

SFSO received 2,201 ICE detainers and did not honor a single one.¹⁰⁷ Since April 2026, law enforcement agencies located within ICE's San Francisco area of responsibility, which primarily includes locations in northern California,¹⁰⁸ have not honored 737 detainers for aliens whose criminal histories included homicide, kidnapping, larceny, robbery, sexual assault, fraud, forgery, burglary, assault, and smuggling.¹⁰⁹

411.2 POLICY

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department shall serve all members of the public equally without consideration of immigration status. A person's immigration status shall have no bearing on the manner in which employees execute their duties. The Department does not comply with the Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (DHS/ICE) requests to detain individuals after they are eligible to be released from Sheriff's custody.

The Sheriff alone may exercise discretion to respond to DHS/ICE requests for notification of release from Sheriff's custody if the subject of that request meets the specific criteria set forth in San Francisco Administrative Code 12I.3(d.)

The Sheriff does comply with criminal arrest warrants signed by a judge. This policy does not prohibit or restrict employees "from sending to, or receiving from, DHS/ICE information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual." (8 U.S.C. 1373.)

Under no circumstances shall employees arrest or detain an individual based solely on their known or suspected immigration status.

Above: The San Francisco Sheriff's Department prohibits compliance with ICE detainers.

¹⁰⁷ E-mail from Deputy City Att'y, San Francisco, Calif., to H. Comm. on the Judiciary Staff (Aug. 21, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

¹⁰⁸ The area includes northern California, Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan. *See* San Francisco Field Off., Area of Responsibility, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, <https://www.ice.gov/field-office/san-francisco-field-office> (last accessed Oct. 27, 2026).

¹⁰⁹ Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Oct. 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The referenced detainers were issued since January 2025 and were not honored since April 2026. *See id.*



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

25-027

Published: 03/18/25

Expires: 03/18/28

Reminder: ICE Administrative Arrest Warrants

The purpose of this notice is to remind sworn members to comply with DGO 5.15, *Enforcement of Immigration Laws* and SF Administrative Codes 12H and 12I, which generally prohibit the use of City resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws except as required by law.

ICE administrative warrants may now show up during regular warrant checks. Members should pay close attention and separate ICE criminal warrants/holds from ICE administrative warrants/holds in the NCIC Immigration Violator file database. We do not enforce ICE administrative warrants/holds. However, members may enforce criminal warrants after consulting with the Sheriff's Central Warrant Bureau (CWB) and confirming the criminal warrant, per DGO 5.15.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Above: In March 2025, then-SFPD Chief of Police William Scott reminded his officers that San Francisco law prohibits compliance with ICE detainers and warrants.

Deaths of Anya Varfolomeev and Nicholay Osokin

Sanctuary state California attracts and harbors criminals like Oscar Eduardo Ortega-Anguiano, an illegal alien from Mexico who was removed from the United States twice—in 2016 and 2018—before illegally reentering the United States at an unknown date and time.¹¹⁰ On November 13, 2021, Ortega-Anguiano “was driving drunk, high on drugs, and speeding at nearly 100 mph on the 405 freeway when he crashed into a vehicle” in which 19-year-olds Anya

¹¹⁰ See Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien, for Oscar Eduardo Ortega, provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Sept. 4, 2026) (on file with Comm.); see also Paul Anderson, *Twice-deported man gets nearly 4 years in federal prison*, L.A. TIMES (Jan. 23, 2026, 4:18 PM), <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2026-01-23/twice-deported-man-gets-nearly-4-years-in-federal-prison>.

Varfolomeeva and her friend Nikolay Osokin were riding.¹¹¹ Anya, “a dedicated ballerina,” and Nikolay, “a gifted student at Pepperdine University,” were both killed in the crash.¹¹²

Ortega-Anguiana, a Mexican national, reportedly entered the United States illegally at the age of six.¹¹³ His criminal history dates back over 20 years to October 2005, when he was convicted of grand theft of property in Los Angeles, and includes subsequent convictions for taking a vehicle without the owner’s consent, false imprisonment by violence, menace, fraud or deceit, improper entry by an alien, and two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter.¹¹⁴ Despite being removed from the United States in 2016 and 2018, Ortega-Anguiana re-entered the country illegally and once again returned to the sanctuary state of California, where in 2021 he killed Anya and Nikolay. In testimony before the Subcommittee in September 2026, Anya’s father, Anatoly Varfolomeev, questioned why Democrats prioritize immigration policies that endanger Americans:

Our tragedy is the direct result of a crazy, incomprehensibly anti-American open border policy by the previous Biden-Harris administration, supported by so called “sanctuary” states with ignorant, arrogant and self-righteous politicians like Newsom and his minions. Those are responsible for what happened to our children. If not for them Anya and Kolya would still be alive.¹¹⁵

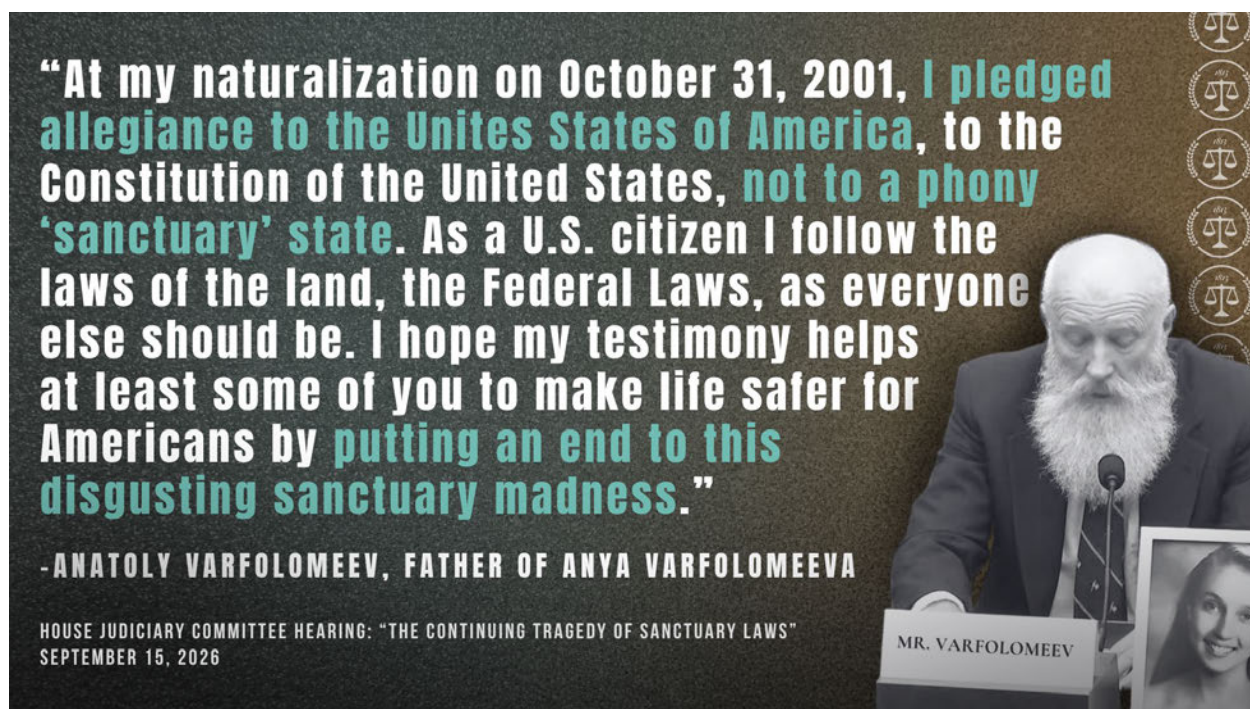
¹¹¹ Press Release, ICYMI – Deputy Secretary Edgar: “An Illegal Immigrant Killed Two Teenagers In My Community. Under The trump Administration, He Will Face Justice”, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (May 13, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/05/13/icymi-deputy-secretary-edgar-illegal-immigrant-killed-two-teenagers-my-community>.

¹¹² *Id.*

¹¹³ Paul Anderson, *Twice-deported man gets nearly 4 years in federal prison*, L.A. TIMES (Jan. 23, 2026, 4:18 PM), <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2026-01-23/twice-deported-man-gets-nearly-4-years-in-federal-prison>.

¹¹⁴ Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien, for Oscar Eduardo Ortega, provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Sept. 4, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

¹¹⁵ *The Continuing Tragedy of Sanctuary Laws: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enf’t, of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (Sept. 15, 2026) (statement of Anatoly Varfolomeev).



Varfolomeev, a naturalized U.S. citizen from the former Soviet Union, described how he and his family “followed the laws and procedures, became U.S. citizens[,]” “embraced the opportunities given to [them],” and “followed the rule of law of the United States.”¹¹⁶ He advocated for states and localities to abandon their sanctuary policies in favor of protecting U.S. citizens:

At my naturalization on October 31, 2001, I pledged allegiance to the Unites States of America, to the Constitution of the United States, not to a phony “sanctuary” state. As a U.S. citizen I follow the laws of the land, the Federal Laws, as everyone else should be. I hope my testimony helps at least some of you to make life safer for Americans by putting an end to this disgusting sanctuary madness.¹¹⁷

CONCLUSION

Democrats’ open-borders policies and sanctuary jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for U.S. citizens. Even after the American people resoundingly rejected Democrats’ pro-illegal alien policies in November 2024, Democrats across the country reinforced sanctuary policies to ensure that the millions of illegal aliens who entered the U.S. are never removed from the country. California is just one example of Democrats’ efforts to erase national borders and undermine immigration enforcement. Meanwhile, President Trump and

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

House and Senate Republicans continue to work on commonsense solutions to secure the border, enforce federal immigration law, and protect American communities.

On March 5, 2026, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 7640, the Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act. The Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act protects American communities by prohibiting state and local laws and policies that restrict cooperation with federal immigration officials. The bill also would defend cooperative jurisdictions from frivolous lawsuits from sanctuary officials, allow jurisdictions to receive federal funding if they do not thwart federal law, and give much-needed relief to victims of sanctuary policies. The Committee will continue its oversight into sanctuary jurisdictions that prioritize the comfort of illegal alien criminals over the safety of U.S. citizens.