

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

May 20, 2026

Chief Ron Thomas
Police Chief
Denver Police Department
1331 Cherokee Street
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Chief Thomas:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of state and local jurisdictions that endanger American communities through their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials. The Denver Police Department's (DPD) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about Denver's sanctuary policies, including DPD's lack of cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that dangerous aliens can be removed from American streets.

To protect communities from criminal aliens in law enforcement custody, ICE uses detainers, which are simple requests that a law enforcement agency "notify [ICE] as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien" and "[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time [the agency] would ordinarily release them so [the Department of Homeland Security] has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law."¹ Federal law prohibits jurisdictions from restricting ICE's requests for and receipt of individuals' citizenship information.² Denver does not allow your office to "hold subjects for detainers" or honor ICE administrative warrants.³ DPD has made clear that it "does not cooperate with ICE on federal civil immigration enforcement."⁴

¹ U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Immigr. Detainers* (May 13, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers>.

² See 8 U.S.C. § 1373.

³ Operations Manual, Denver Police Dep't, https://denvergov.org/files/assets/public/v/92/police-department/documents/operations-manual/om_book.pdf (last accessed Apr. 22, 2026); see Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 24-76.6-102(1)(b); see also A Hearing with Sanctuary City Mayors Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, 119th Cong. (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Johnston-Denver-Written-Testimony.pdf> (testifying that city employees may only cooperate with federal immigration officials who have a judicial warrant).

⁴ *Denver police won't cooperate with ICE on civil immigration enforcement*, DENVER GAZETTE (June 14, 2025), <https://www.denvergazette.com/2025/06/14/denver-police-wont-cooperate-with-ice-on-civil-immigration-enforcement-e3684d7a-6580-4241-8ba0-e725d8247ae5/>.

Despite DPD's mission to "prevent[] crime and increas[e] public trust,"⁵ Denver's sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Denver undermines public safety and thwarts the efficient enforcement of federal law. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and to inform potential legislative reforms to address sanctuary policies, we ask that you provide the following information:


1. All documents and communications referring or relating to DPD's interaction with ICE for the period September 1, 2022, to the present;
2. The number of ICE detainers that the DPD has received and has declined to honor for the period September 1, 2022, to the present;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to DPD's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period September 1, 2022, to the present; and
4. All documents and communications between or among DPD, the Denver Sheriff Department, and the Denver District Attorney's Office referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period September 1, 2022, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁶ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



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



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress

⁵ Mission Statement, Denver Police Dep't, Denver, Colo., <https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Police-Department> (last accessed Apr. 22, 2026).

⁶ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).

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cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement