

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

May 21, 2026

Superintendent Larry Snelling
Chicago Police Department
3510 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

Dear Superintendent Snelling:

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 Chicago Police Department's (CPD) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about Chicago's sanctuary policies, including CPD's lack of cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that dangerous aliens are not released onto 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 For years, Illinois's sanctuary laws have prevented CPD from complying with ICE detainers.³ Illinois law also insulates officials from criminal liability for releasing dangerous criminal aliens despite ICE detainers.⁴ The city of Chicago has enacted its own sanctuary ordinance that provides even stronger protections for dangerous foreign nationals in your community.⁵

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 See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/15; Teresa Mathew, *Illinois Targets Trump's Immigration Agenda*, BLOOMBERG (Aug. 24, 2017, 3:54 PM), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-24/illinois-s-trump-act-targets-ice-immigration-detainers>. The Trust Act also requires law enforcement agencies to submit annual reports to the Illinois Attorney General to document ICE detainer requests and ICE support and assistance requests. 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/25.

⁴ See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/15(d).

⁵ See Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Communities, <https://www.chicagopolice.org/imr/> (last accessed Apr. 29, 2026) (describing Chicago's "Welcoming City Ordinance"); see also Responding to Incidents Involving Citizenship

Illinois's and Chicago's pro-illegal alien policies ensure that dangerous criminals are released from Chicago's custody and free to reoffend. In June 2019, for example, CPD refused to honor an ICE detainer for a Mexican national who had been arrested for theft.⁶ After his release from CPD custody, the illegal alien allegedly lured a 3-year-old girl into a McDonald's bathroom and assaulted her.⁷ If Chicago authorities had cooperated with federal officials, the man, a convicted aggravated felon who previously had been deported, could have been in ICE custody and removed to Mexico.⁸ Despite the stark consequences of Chicago's sanctuary policies, CPD at the time defended its lack of cooperation with ICE,⁹ and Chicago has maintained its pro-crime policies in the years since. In less than 11 months in 2025, Illinois's sanctuary policies led to the release of nearly 2,000 criminals.¹⁰

Chicago's sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Chicago 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 CPD's interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to CPD's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainees that CPD has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;

Status, Special Order S06-14-03, Chicago Police Dep't (Sept. 18, 2025), [https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/office-of-immigrant-migrant-and-refugee-rights/Responding%20to%20Incidents%20Involving%20Citizenship%20Status%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/office-of-immigrant-migrant-and-refugee-rights/Responding%20to%20Incidents%20Involving%20Citizenship%20Status%20(1).pdf).

⁶ Press Release, Man arrested for sexually assaulting toddler at fast food restaurant should have been turned over to ICE in 2019, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/man-arrested-sexually-assaulting-toddler-fast-food-restaurant-should-have-been-turned>.

⁷ *Id.*; see Lee Brown, *Man released under 'sanctuary city' rules sexually assaults 3-year-old: ICE*, N.Y. POST (Mar. 2, 2020, 2:55 PM), <https://nypost.com/2020/03/02/man-released-under-sanctuary-city-rules-sexually-assaults-3-year-old-ice/>.

⁸ See Press Release, *supra* note 6.

⁹ Diane Pathieu & Michelle Gallardo, *Chicago police, Lightfoot defend decision not to cooperate with ICE after DHS says man accused in McDonald's child sex assault was previously deported*, ABC 7 NEWS (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/man-accused-in-mcdonalds-child-sex-assault-previously-deported-dhs-/5973356/>.

¹⁰ See Press Release, Governor Pritzker's Sanctuary Illinois Released More than 1,700 Criminal Illegal Aliens Including Murderers, Pedophiles, and Kidnappers, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/08/governor-pritzkers-sanctuary-illinois-released-more-1700-criminal-illegal-aliens>.

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4. All reports sent to the Illinois Attorney General to fulfill the reporting requirements under 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/25 for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
5. All documents and communications between or among CPD, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2018, to the present; and
6. All documents and communications between or among CPD and the Chicago Mayor's Office referring or relating to immigration and immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2018, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹¹ 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

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

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

¹¹ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).