

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 21, 2026

Chief Jim McDonnell
Chief of Police
Los Angeles Police Department
100 West 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chief McDonnell:

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 Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about Los Angeles's sanctuary policies, including your 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 You have made clear that LAPD will not cooperate with ICE or assist with immigration enforcement.³ LAPD prohibits ICE from interviewing criminal aliens in its custody, refuses to honor ICE detainers,⁴ and does not even "inquire into or collect information about an individual's citizenship or immigration status" in many circumstances.⁵ Instead, LAPD

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 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>.

⁴ 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>.

⁵ 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

interferes with federal law enforcement activities and harasses federal officers to demand their personal information.⁶

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 1990.⁷ 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."⁸ On September 7, 2020, he was arrested "for a domestic violence with injury charge by [LAPD]."⁹ The next day, ICE lodged a detainer with LAPD, but local law enforcement refused to honor it and released Nixon Flores onto California streets.¹⁰ Four months later, Nixon Flores murdered his ex-girlfriend in front of their young child.¹¹ In other cases, LAPD declined detainers for criminal aliens who were later arrested for committing serious crimes, including murder.¹²

Despite your claim that your office's sanctuary policies are "designed to promote [LAPD's] commitment to constitutional policing and public safety,"¹³ Los Angeles's sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Los Angeles 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 LAPD's interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;

Immigration_Laws_Department_Immigration_Liaison_Officer_and_Federal_Immigratio.pdf; see Community Policing and Immigr.: A Guide to LAPD's Policies, *supra* note 4.

⁶ See Notice 1.14 from Chief of Police to All Dep't Personnel, Response to Incidents Involving Federal Immigr. Enf't Actions – Revised (Mar. 3, 2026),

https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/OCOP_Notice_Response_to_Incidents_Involving_Federal_Immigration_Enforcement_Action_REVISED.pdf ("When encountering individuals engaged in enforcement actions who are not displaying visible identification showing their agency and either a name or badge number, officers shall request that any individual claiming to be a law enforcement officer present identification and shall ensure the interaction is captured on body-worn video."). The policy also requires notification to the Department Immigration Affairs Liaison about any "response to federal immigration enforcement actions." *Id.*

⁷ 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>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ 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>.

¹² 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>.

¹³ See Community Policing and Immigr.: A Guide to LAPD's Policies, *supra* note 4.

Chief Jim McDonnell

May 21, 2026

Page 3


2. All documents and communications referring or relating to LAPD's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to LAPD's Immigration Affairs Liaison for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;
4. The number of ICE detainees that LAPD has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2020, to the present;
5. All documents and communications between or among LAPD, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2020, to the present; and
6. All documents and communications referring or relating to radio calls and responses to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2026, 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.¹⁴ 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

¹⁴ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).