

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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June 2, 2026

The Honorable Kelly A. Martinez
San Diego County Sheriff
John F. Duffy Administrative Center
9621 Ridgehaven Ct.
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Sheriff Martinez:

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. California's and San Diego's immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about the San Diego County Sheriff's Office's (SDSO) interaction with these sanctuary policies, including your limited ability to cooperate 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, California has limited local law enforcement's ability to cooperate with federal immigration officials, including by prohibiting jurisdictions from honoring ICE detainers for most criminal aliens.³ In late 2024, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance to "prohibit county law enforcement from assisting ICE in deporting migrants, giving

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, e.g., Cal. Gov't Code § 7282.5 (cooperation with immigration authorities), § 7283.1 (ICE and individuals in custody), § 7283.2 (ICE detainers), § 7284.6 (prohibition on ICE cooperation); 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>; 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>.

more protection than they have under California’s existing sanctuary laws.”⁴ Following this action, you made clear that your office will follow state law, which you noted did not include a “loophole” for further limiting cooperation with ICE for the most dangerous criminals in your custody.⁵ You have also stated that “[t]he Board of Supervisors does not set policy for the Sheriff’s Office.”⁶

California’s pro-illegal alien policies shield criminals from accountability. In late 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.”⁷ After the illegal alien’s arrest, ICE lodged a detainer against him, which your office, citing California law, rejected.⁸ Last year, the state’s sanctuary policies also led to rejected detainers 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.”⁹ In just one year, California’s refusal to honor detainers “resulted in the release of 4,561 criminal illegal aliens,” with crimes ranging from homicide to robbery to assault.¹⁰

Despite your goal to “provide the highest quality public safety service to everyone in San Diego County,”¹¹ California’s sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in San Diego 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 SDSO’s interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2023, to the present;

⁴ 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/>.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ 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/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ 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>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Mission, Vision and Values, San Diego Cnty. Sheriff’s Off., <https://www.sdsheriff.gov/bureaus/about-us/mission-values> (last accessed Apr. 27, 2026).


2. All documents and communications referring or relating to SDSO's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2023, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainers that SDSO has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2023, to the present, including the criminal histories of the non-U.S. citizens for whom the detainers were placed;
4. All documents and communications between or among SDSO and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office referring or relating to immigration and immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2023, to the present; and
5. All documents and communications between or among SDSO and the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2023, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹² 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



Darrell Issa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property,
Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

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

¹² Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).