

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

June 2, 2026

Chief Scott Wahl
San Diego Police Department
1401 Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Wahl:

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 Police Department's (SDPD) 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 and ICE encourages state and local partnerships to increase community safety.³

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.⁴ SDPD is "not allowed to ask about immigration status, participate in

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., Partner with ICE Through the 287(g) Program, <https://www.ice.gov/287g> (last accessed Apr. 30, 2026).

⁴ 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*

immigration enforcement[,] or assist with immigration arrests.”⁵ In early April 2026, the San Diego City Council unanimously passed the Due Process and Safety Ordinance to further limit immigration enforcement in the city, including by requiring a judicial warrant for federal immigration officials to access “non-public city property.”⁶

Despite your goal to “maintain public safety by providing the highest quality police services to all of [your] communities,”⁷ 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 SDPD’s interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2023, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to SDPD’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 SDPD 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 SDPD 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 SDPD and the San Diego City Council 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

‘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>.

⁵ Noah Lyons, *San Diego police chief lays out separation between SDPD and ICE*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE (Mar. 11, 2026, 5:00 PM), <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2026/03/11/san-diego-police-chief-lays-out-separation-between-sdpd-and-ice/>; see Policy 6.18, Adult Undocumented Persons, San Diego Police Dep’t (Nov. 19, 2020), <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/618.pdf>.

⁶ Shelby Bremer, *San Diego passes law barring federal agents from non-public city property without a warrant*, NBC 7 SAN DIEGO (Apr. 7, 2026, 10:49 PM), <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/san-diego-passes-law-barring-federal-agents-from-non-public-spaces-warrant/4006871/>.

⁷ About, San Diego Police Dep’t, <https://www.sandiego.gov/police/about> (last accessed Apr. 30, 2026).

Chief Scott Wahl

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pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁸ 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

⁸ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).