

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

June 2, 2026

Chief of Police Derrick Lew
San Francisco Police Department
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear Chief Lew:

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 San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about San Francisco's sanctuary policies, including SFPD'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 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 San Francisco has made it even more difficult for ICE to arrest criminals

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*

in your community by prohibiting the use of “resources to assist in the enforcement of Federal immigration law,”⁵ restricting information sharing about a criminal alien’s release date,⁶ and further limiting compliance with ICE detainers.⁷ SFPD has implemented policies to limit immigration enforcement,⁸ reminding officers to not enforce “ICE administrative warrants/holds.”⁹ In practice, San Francisco’s pro-illegal alien policies ensure dangerous criminals are released from SFPD’s custody—or never apprehended by SFPD at all—and are free to reoffend.

Despite your goal for SFPD to “stand[] for safety with respect for all,”¹⁰ sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in San Francisco 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 SFPD’s interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2024, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to SFPD’s policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2024, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainers that SFPD’s has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2024, to the present, including the criminal histories of the non-U.S. citizens for whom the detainers were placed; and
4. All documents and communications between or among SFPD, the San Francisco Sheriff’s Office, and the San Francisco Mayor’s Office referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2024, 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 San Francisco Administrative Code § 12H.2.

⁶ San Francisco Administrative Code § 12H.2(c).

⁷ San Francisco Administrative Code § 12I.3.

⁸ DGO5.15, Enforcement of Immigration Laws, San Francisco Police Dep’t (May 2015),

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/your-sfpd/policies/general-orders/5-15>.

⁹ 25-027, Reminder: ICE Administrative Arrest Warrants, San Francisco Police Dep’t (Mar. 18, 2025),

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/your-sfpd/policies/departments-bulletins-notices/25-027>.

¹⁰ Strategic Plan, San Francisco Police Dep’t, <https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/your-sfpd/leadership/strategic-plan> (last accessed May 1, 2026).

Chief of Police Derrick Lew

June 2, 2026


Page 3

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).