



MEMO

To: Minnesota City and County Officials, Commissioners, Law Enforcement Officers, Members of the Minnesota Legislature, and the Minnesota Governor's Office

From: Justin Terrell, Executive Director of the Minnesota Justice Research Center, justin@mnjrc.org

Date: December 18th, 2025

RE: MNJRC Recommendations for Consistent and Transparent Public Communication in Response to the Current ICE Operations in Minnesota

In recent weeks, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations have escalated across the State of Minnesota. Like those in other states, these operations are indiscriminately targeting people, often unlawfully and without due process,¹ harming them and their communities, and posing a threat to safety in our state. We at the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) have composed this memo to offer recommendations for elected officials and law enforcement agencies to ensure a response that provides transparency and guidance to the community and calls for the end of all ICE operations in Minnesota.

The MNJRC is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota's criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development. We center our work around values - like humane and fair treatment for all, safety, wellbeing, and trust - and provide our community and policymakers with information and tools needed to create a criminal legal system that truly delivers justice.

Research tells us that immigration crackdowns do not decrease crime rates² and, in fact, only lead to increased victimization of the communities targeted in the crackdowns.³ Contrary to the Trump Administration's rhetoric, the vast majority of people arrested by ICE have no criminal record.⁴

In alignment with our mission, and as experts in evidence-based justice practices, we offer recommendations for local agencies. These recommendations encourage local

¹ Altman, H. (2025, October 21).

² Gonçalves, F. M., Jácome, E., & Weisburst, E. K. (2024).

³ Alliance for Immigrant Survivors. (2025).

⁴ Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. (2025).

agencies to increase safety and trust for our community by adopting a transparency campaign that accomplishes three things: 1) providing information, 2) clearly defining the role of law enforcement, and 3) ensuring people are aware of rights violations.

Transparency Campaign Goals:

1. Provide Information: Community members need a primary source to provide clear information to residents, like an accessible webpage. Clear and consistent information prevents and addresses rumors and reduces the likelihood of fear, panic, and unlawful behavior. Providing a primary source for information also encourages the community to verify the information being provided, which can lead to an increase in trust between the municipality and its constituents. Research tells us that trust is historically low.⁵
2. Clearly Define the Role of Law Enforcement: The role of law enforcement should be clearly defined by what they “*will do*” versus what they “*can’t do*.” Specifically, law enforcement should use their resources to track and report on the movements and impact of ICE’s operation in the city. The operation is a disruptive tactic by the federal government, and local law enforcement should be utilized to minimize the disruption. While not coordinating with ICE should remain the policy, procedure, and practice of local law enforcement agencies, proactive support of our communities through data collection and public reporting on the movements and impact of the operation should be their primary role to ensure the public’s safety and trust.⁶ Unless law enforcement is reporting publicly on what they *are doing*, the public has no reason to trust that they are *not* coordinating with the operation.
3. Ensure the People are Aware of Violations of Individuals’ Rights: All documented human, civil, and constitutional rights violations committed by ICE and those involved in the operation must be documented and reported publicly, with the consent of those involved. Local officials should clarify the process and inform the community on how to file complaints with the appropriate office. This clarification may lead to transparency for the people looking to seek recourse for unjust action committed against them.

These goals aim to ensure that people have access to information, that law enforcement has a clearly defined role in keeping communities safe, and that, in the event of rights violations, there is a reasonable course of action.

⁵ Minnesota Justice Research Center. (2021).

⁶ Granias, A., Evans, R., Lee, D., MartinRogers, N., & Connell, E. (2022).

Specific Recommendations:

1. Daily Briefings - **Local officials should host two daily briefings on the movements and impact of ICE operations within their community.**
 - Every morning, local officials should provide an update on the movements and impacts of the operations from the day before and overnight.
 - Every evening, local officials should hold a public briefing on the movements and impacts of the operation that took place that day.
2. Data Collection - **To provide useful information to the public, cities and locales should request, under court order if necessary, the following data from the appropriate agency (i.e., Homeland Security, US Border Patrol, and ICE):**
 - Detailed data on stops, detentions, warrants, and outcomes
 - Information on how civil rights compliance is being monitored during enforcement actions
 - The number of individuals detained within city limits and information about their detention, including:
 - The location of their detention
 - The length of detention
 - The legal basis for each detention, including warrants, charges, or lack thereof
 - Whether any detained individual has any prior criminal history, including whether any offenses and/or convictions were classified as violent
 - Race, gender, and immigration status of the detained individual
 - Whether an individual was granted due process or legal representation
 - Whether a family member has been contacted and connected with legal representation and resources
 - Level of access to medical care and necessary medications
 - Level of access to language interpretation services
3. Monitoring - We support those who seek to independently monitor the movements and operations of ICE during their current operation. In fact, we want to encourage individuals and community members to share publicly what they are seeing - with more trust in law enforcement, community members can be a key resource for information. The MNJRC does *not* support more police surveillance of community members. **However, we strongly recommend that whatever resources are available by local governments be used to track and monitor the movements and operations of ICE agents.** These methods should only be used to provide a clear picture of the

impact of the operation that can be reported on during daily briefings, in a lawful manner. Whatever methods are being used to track movements and the impact of the operation should be made publicly available through an after-action report.

4. Reporting - **Local governments shall report all documented violations of constitutional rights to the US Attorney's Office to ensure the administration is aware of violations and can take action if it so chooses to do so.** The federal government has the authority and responsibility to address the violation of an individual's rights caused by the operation. Local governments should report as much as possible to the US Department of Justice to ensure the option of addressing these concerns is available to the people. We uplift the example of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), which updated its immigration policies to commit to recording and reporting any federal violations of individual rights.
5. Ensuring Humanity - The MNJRC suggests that state and local elected officials request the following from the US Border Patrol, an approach that other cities are also adopting:⁷
 - Request that ICE agents not wear masks and be clearly identifiable by uniform during their operation.
 - Request that ICE provide all data listed above to ensure the City can provide detailed briefings to the community.
 - Ensure due process and protections against discriminatory actions taken by ICE agents.
 - Provide a detailed after-action report.
 - **End the current operation immediately and provide a full, detailed report on the results and impact of the operation.**

Contact Justin Terrell, Executive Director of MNJRC, at justin@mnjrc.org for comments or questions.

Below are references and additional resources for anyone interested in this topic in order to echo, add to the above recommendations, and share with their local officials.

⁷ New Orleans City Council. (2025).

References

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https://www.mnjrc.org/_files/ugd/88fad1_70d36d4110d6446194ede5ec552729fb.pdf

Support Resources

Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Complaint Form

<https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/>

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM)

Phone: 1-800-223-1368

Website: <https://www.ilcm.org/>

(Legal assistance for immigrant victims of domestic violence)

ACLU Know Your Rights Information

<https://www.aclu-mn.org/know-your-rights/what-if-im-stopped-police-or-ice/>

MN Day One Crisis Line

Phone: 1-866-223-1111 (For those experiencing domestic violence or abuse)

Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC)'s Resources

<https://www.miracmn.com/resources>

Updated Minneapolis Police Department Immigration Policy

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/3fe5d68>