

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Johnny Rodriguez
Mayor of Balcones Heights
3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201

August 12, 2026

Dear Mayor Rodriguez,

Earlier this year, your city's police department entered into a formal partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Task Force Model of the 287(g) program. As you know, the Task Force Model allows state and local officers to conduct immigration enforcement during field operations and arrest people merely on the suspicion of residing in the United States illegally. Fundamentally, these agreements turn your local police officers into agents of the federal government, often without adequate training or oversight¹. Your police department's partnership with ICE will not only increase the risk of constitutional rights violations against your constituents but will damage public trust, strain your local law enforcement's resources and budget, and diminish economic activity in your city and region. We share your goal of prioritizing public safety for all constituents and Bexar County residents and for these reasons, we urge you to reconsider your city's participation in ICE's 287(g) program.

Your constituents and all Bexar County residents deserve local leaders who protect them from harmful overreach by the federal government. In the past year, the American people have seen roving patrols of masked agents body slam an elderly man in Los Angeles, drag a pregnant woman down a street in Minneapolis, and raid an apartment building using military tactics and a Black Hawk in Chicago. In San Antonio, which ranks fourth in the U.S. for the highest number of ICE arrests, ICE arrested over 100 people in a late-night raid merely on the suspicion of being in the United States illegally². ICE provided limited information to local leadership, and months later, has still not described who was arrested or where they were taken that night. ICE's operations have also led to the tragic deaths of three U.S. citizens, who all were shot and killed by agents: Ruben Ray Martinez, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti. Balcones Heights residents should not have their local law enforcement co-opted into an agenda that has allowed agents to use unconstitutional tactics and excessive force with nearly zero accountability.

ICE continues to engage in racial profiling as part of the Trump Administration's mass deportation campaign and these same patterns of policing have occurred under other 287(g) agreements. Bexar County's diverse community is disproportionately likely to be harmed by 287(g) agreements.³ In Alamance County, North Carolina, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) found the sheriff's office had established unlawful checkpoints at entrances to Latino

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2021). *ICE's 287(g) Program: GAO-21-186*. <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-186>

² Montoya, A. (2026, February). *San Antonio ranks fourth in U.S. for ICE arrests; over 100 detained in late-night raid*. *San Antonio Express-News*. <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/san-antonio-ice-fourth-arrests-2026-22156004.php>

³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). *2020 Decennial Census*. <https://www.census.gov>

neighborhoods.⁴ In Gwinnett County, Georgia, hundreds of Latino drivers were targeted and detained after routine traffic stops under the program.⁵ Your city's participation in this program increases the risk that residents in a majority-Latino county will be targeted and racially profiled.

Your city may not afford the legal exposure these agreements generate. In 2022, an ACLU review of the program found that of the 142 agencies participating in the program at least 65 percent had a pattern of racially profiling individuals.⁶ That pattern has repeatedly produced legal consequences at the local level. In Maricopa County, Arizona, a DOJ investigation found that deputies engaged in a pattern of constitutional violations after entering into a 287(g) agreement, with Latino drivers stopped up to nine times more often than other drivers.⁷ The ensuing legal case, *Melendres v. Arpaio*, resulted in a federal consent decree placing the sheriff's office under court-ordered oversight. In its own court filings, Maricopa County has acknowledged spending more than \$300 million to comply with the resulting court orders, with over \$30 million spent on a court-appointed monitor alone.⁸

Beyond violating your constituents' civil rights, increased immigration enforcement will continue to hurt your local economy and community⁹. A January 2026 study by UC Irvine found that consumer spending fell 25 percent in the eight weeks following a major ICE enforcement surge in Orange County, California. This translated to an estimated \$58.9 million in lost economic output and \$4.5 million in reduced local sales tax revenue over just two months.¹⁰ A separate YouGov survey found that 1 in 6 Americans have avoided public spaces or businesses due to perceived immigration enforcement activity¹¹. In San Antonio, many school districts have seen a surge in withdrawals and chronic absences.¹² Additionally, after the July 2025 Texas floods, undocumented residents avoided seeking emergency medical care, leaving injured community members without the help they required¹³. Continued cooperation with ICE risks deterring investment, driving away residents, and depleting your skilled workforce.

Police departments struggling to balance their budgets should not be forced to subsidize federal immigration enforcement priorities at the expense of their communities. These agreements are

⁴ Immigrant Legal Resource Center. (2025, July). *Immigration Dragnet: The New Era of 287(g)*. <https://www.ilrc.org/immigration-dragnet>

⁵ Immigrant Legal Resource Center. (2025, July). *Immigration Dragnet: The New Era of 287(g)*. <https://www.ilrc.org/immigration-dragnet>

⁶ American Civil Liberties Union. (2022). *License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs*. <https://www.aclu.org/publications/license-abuse-how-ices-287g-program-empowers-racist-sheriffs>

⁷ Immigrant Legal Resource Center. (2025, July). *Immigration Dragnet: The New Era of 287(g)*. <https://www.ilrc.org/immigration-dragnet>

⁸ Maricopa County. (2025, December). *Motion to End Federal Oversight of MCSO*. <https://www.maricopa.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/3550>

⁹ City of San Antonio. (n.d.). *DECI report*. <https://www.sa.gov/files/assets/main/v/2/coa/documents/immigrant-affairs/deci-report.pdf>

¹⁰ UC Irvine Social Impact Hub, "OC Businesses Lose \$59M Following Immigration Enforcement," January 21, 2026, <https://socialecology.uci.edu/news/oc-businesses-lose-59m-following-immigration-enforcement>.

¹¹ YouGov. (2025, November). *Immigration enforcement fears are changing U.S. consumer behavior*. <https://yougov.com/en-us/articles/53408-immigration-enforcement-fears-are-changing-us-consumer-behavior>

¹² Esparza, J. (2026). *Immigration enforcement fears contribute to school withdrawals and absences in San Antonio*. *San Antonio Express-News*.

<https://www.expressnews.com/news/education/article/san-antonio-schools-immigration-enforcement-21945658.php>

¹³ Dickerson, C. (2025, August 11). *Undocumented immigrants avoid seeking help after Texas floods*. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/11/us/politics/undocumented-immigrants-aid-texas-floods.html>

structured so that the federal government can reimburse police departments for the time they've used on immigration enforcement, though that money is not guaranteed. The Immigration and Nationality Act itself makes clear that the costs of these functions fall on the state or locality, not the federal government. Last year, the Dallas Police Department declined \$25 million to enter into a 287(g) agreement, after learning the dollar amount was not a free check but a reimbursement ceiling contingent on all 3,200 officers being trained and each making at least one arrest.¹⁴ Departments that sign 287(g) agreements based on financial incentive are taking on a significant and largely uncompensated burden that their communities will ultimately be left to absorb.

We urge you to consider the long-term well-being of your constituents and the potential harm caused when local agencies assume federal immigration enforcement responsibilities without the necessary safeguards, oversight, or community consent.

To better understand the scope and implications of this partnership, we request you share the following information publicly:

1. How many officers does the police department plan to deputize under the 287(g) agreement?
2. What is the projected cost to the police department for training, implementation, and ongoing enforcement activities under this program?
 - a. How does Balcones Heights plan to cover expenses if this agreement strains your budget?
3. What level of reimbursement, if any, do you expect to receive from the federal government to carry out these functions?
4. Has the federal government offered or suggested any specific funding amounts tied to arrest or apprehension targets?
5. Will you commit to publicly releasing data related to your department's cooperation with ICE, including—but not limited to—the number of arrests made under the 287(g) authority?

We appreciate your attention to these concerns and your commitment to safeguarding the rights, safety, and trust of our communities.

Sincerely,

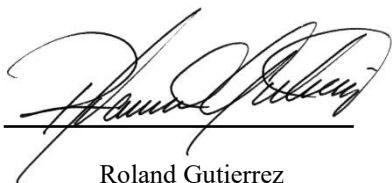
¹⁴ CBS News Texas. (2025). *Dallas council members learn ICE's \$25 million offer is reimbursement-based*. <https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/dallas-council-members-ice-25-million-police-immigration-enforcement/>



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



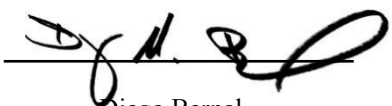
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



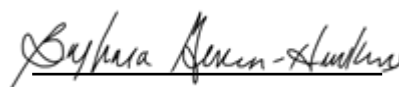
Roland Gutierrez
Texas State Senator



Jose Menendez
Texas State Senator



Diego Bernal
Texas State Representative



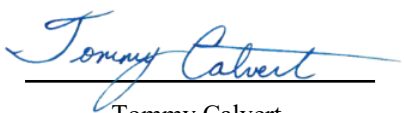
Barbara Gervin Hawkins
Texas State Representative



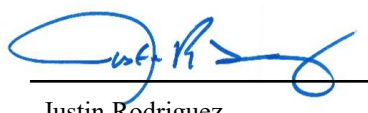
Elizabeth Campos
Texas State Representative



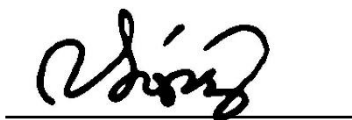
Trey Martinez Fischer
Texas State Representative



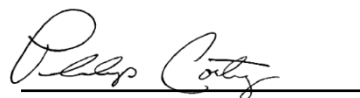
Tommy Calvert
Bexar County Commissioner



Justin Rodriguez
Bexar County Commissioner



Ray Lopez
Texas State Representative



Philip Cortez
Texas State Representative



Rebeca Clay-Flores
Bexar County Commissioner



Josey Garcia
Texas State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sakai', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Sakai
Bexar County Judge