



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 23, 2026

### **Are Mayor Whitmire and Chief Diaz putting Federal Funding before Public Safety?**

HOUSTON, TX — We the People Organize is pleased that Councilwoman Salinas, Kamin, and Councilman Pollard are showing transparency and leadership in drafting a new City Ordinance on immigration outlining what officers can and can't do when stopping someone who has an immigration administrative warrant.

We are saddened that Community Affairs, a much-needed division that for years has been an asset to the community and the police department, was dissolved. Shortly afterward, a new city immigration policy was implemented allowing officers to hold people stopped during traffic stops for 30 minutes while waiting for ICE officers to arrive.

This is not public safety. This is not smart policing. And this is not what Houstonians need from a police department already stretched thin.

HPD should be solving crimes, answering 911 calls, and rebuilding community trust — not diverting officers from real public safety work that Houston taxpayers want and expect.

On Tuesday, March 17, We the People Organize went before Mayor Whitmire and Council and asked the following questions but didn't receive answers. We, Council members, and Houston taxpayers need answers; we deserve answers.

We are asking Mayor Whitmire and Chief Diaz:

Does HPD participate in the ICE 287(g) Agreement Program?

1. How long has HPD participated in the ICE 287(g) Agreement Program?
2. What is the agreement between HPD and ICE?
3. Is HPD receiving federal funding or other benefits under the ICE 287(g) Agreement Program?
4. How much federal funding has HPD received?
5. What is the federal funding used for?
6. Can we, the public, media, or City Council members, have a copy of the agreement?

7. Is HPD's participation in the ICE 287(g) Agreement Program the reason why HPD closed the HPD Community Affairs Division?
8. Was the HPD Community Affairs Division closed because HPD officers are needed on the streets to detain immigration violators for 30 minutes for ICE?
9. If HPD had a personnel shortage and couldn't investigate 264,000 cases in 2024, how do they now have personnel to hold immigration violators for 30 minutes for ICE?
10. Mayor Whitmire and Chief Diaz, are you putting Federal Funding over Public Safety?
11. Why wasn't there any public input before Community Affairs was dissolved?

**Statement from Hai Bui, Founder of We the People Organize:**

“Houston families deserve police officers who are focused on safety, not immigration theater. When our local police are told to hold people for ICE over noncriminal administrative warrants, that is not smart government. It is dangerous mission creep. It undermines trust, wastes resources, and sends a chilling message to every immigrant family in this city. Houston must reject fear-based policing and choose constitutional, community-centered public safety.”

Houston must draw a clear line: HPD is not ICE.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/article/hpd-ice-traffic-stops-20400411.php>

<https://www.galvestonjustice.com/blog/ice-requests-houston-driver-data-what-it-means-for-texas-immigrants/>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/article/hpd-response-times-21295061.php>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/immigration/article/ice-warrants-houston-police-whitmire-22071067.php>

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