



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HPD Must Protect Houston — Not Help ICE

HOUSTON, TX — We the People Organize is calling on Mayor John Whitmire, Police Chief Noe Diaz, and Houston City Council to end any HPD policy that turns local police into a backup force for ICE.

The Houston Chronicle has now made clear what many immigrant families and civil rights advocates have been warning about for months: HPD officers have been reporting people to ICE during routine traffic stops, and the city's new policy still allows officers to hold people for up to 30 minutes while waiting for federal agents to arrive.

That is not public safety. That is not smart policing. And that is not what Houstonians need from a department already stretched thin.

HPD should be solving crimes, answering 911 calls, and rebuilding community trust — not standing by while traffic stops turn into immigration encounters. Administrative immigration warrants are not criminal warrants signed by a judge, and Houston should not be treating them like ordinary police business.

The city's new policy may be an attempt to respond to public outrage, but it does not go far enough. A 30-minute hold is still a hold. It still diverts officers from real public safety work. And it still sends a message to immigrant communities that any encounter with local police could become a doorway to ICE.

We the People Organize is asking the following 11 questions:

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

7. Is HPD participating with ICE 287(g) Agreement Program the reason why HPD closed HPD Community Affairs Division?
8. Was 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, are you putting Federal Funding over Public Safety?
11. Was 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>

For media inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Hai Bui
Founder of We the People Organize haisonbui@gmail.com
281-330-4351

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