



April 15, 2026

Dear Council Members Alejandra Salinas, Edward Pollard, and Abbie Kamin:

After reading the article in Houston Public Media that Ken Paxton said Friday he will “absolutely stop” the city’s implementation of the new policy prohibiting police officers from detaining people or prolonging traffic stops due to civil immigration warrants, he also raised the specter of removing elected officials from office.

I felt compelled to do something. I researched the reason why Ken Paxton stated that he would “absolutely stop” the city’s implementation of the new policy prohibiting police officers from detaining people or prolonging traffic stops due to civil immigration warrants, and why he raised the specter of removing elected officials from office, which I assume means City Council members who voted for the ordinance.

Paxton, Mayor Whitmire, and others are supporting Texas Senate Bill 4, which prohibits cities from passing policies to stop law enforcement agencies from working with ICE, and SB 8, which strengthens immigration enforcement statewide. These new state laws allow officers to participate with ICE’s 287(g) Program Model, mainly the Task Force Model which allows trained local officers to identify, process, and detain immigration violators during regular law enforcement activities.

In an appearance on KSEV, a conservative AM talk radio station in Houston, Paxton argued the measure “couldn’t be more explicitly barred” under state law.

Before Paxton’s interview on Friday, Harris County Republican Party Chairman Cindy Siegel said she had “filed a formal complaint” with his office about the city’s new policy.

No doubt this is retaliation of the City New Ordinance limiting HPD detaining undocumented immigrants for ICE and in support of SB 4 and SB 8, which allows HPD to participate in ICE 287(g) Program, mainly the Task Force Model that fully reimburse, law enforcement agencies under DHS New Reimbursement Opportunities for State and Local Law Enforcement Partnering with ICE 287 (g)

Program, including officers annual salary and benefits for each eligible trained 287(g) officer, with overtime coverage up to 25% of the officer's annual salary participating ICE 287(g) ICE.

President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill funding supported the expansion of 287(g) partnerships with state and local law enforcement under ICE's 287(g) Program, mainly the Task Force Model. Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Homeland Security, and considered the central architect and chief driving force behind Trump's administration's immigration and mass deportation policies, is carrying out the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, with a target of **1 million deportations** per year, which explains the massive ICE warehouses being built in states across America.

Based on reports from July 2025 through early 2026, President Donald Trump signed into law the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), a massive, Republican-led budget reconciliation bill that allocated roughly \$170 billion to \$190 billion over four years for border and interior immigration enforcement. Brennan Center for Justice +2Here are the key details regarding this legislation: Total Funding and Scope: The legislation, passed in July 2025, allocates over \$170 billion to be used through September 2029 for immigration and border enforcement, including significant boosts for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).ICE Funding Increase: The bill provides roughly \$75 billion directly to ICE for operations and detention facilities, supplementing its annual budget and making it the highest-funded federal law enforcement agency. Mass Deportation Push: The funds are specifically targeted toward accelerating arrests and deportations, with an internal goal for ICE to arrest between 1,500 and 2,000 people per day. ICE 287(g) Program provides participating state and local law enforcement with the tools, training, and resources to enforce immigration laws while performing routine police duties. Currently state and local police are participating from 40 states, with 8,501 Trained Task Force Officers and over 2,000 additional officers in-training.

On September 2, 2025, new reimbursement opportunities were announced for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE to arrest the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens." The Trump administration is quietly using a program called 287(g) to turn local police and sheriff's departments into arms of its deportation machine. The new reimbursement and expansion of the 287(g) Program turn local police into deportation agents, unleashing an all-out attack, rounding up mostly Hispanics under the false **pretext** of helping ICE arrest the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens" and deport them out of America. The 287(g) Program Models are Jail Enforcement, Task Force, Tribal Task Force, and

the Warrant Service Officer, rewards local law enforcement and uses officers who used to work for the people and communities they served, and who were paid for by taxpayers, as part of an anti-immigration, **secret and destructive** plan to deport undocumented immigrants whose only crime is being in the United States without legal status, which is not a criminal offense, in order to carry out Stephen Miller's destructive plan for the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, with a target of 1 million deportations per year.

In September 2025, after the announcement of the new reimbursement opportunities for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE, the Trump administration hit a milestone of 1,000 participating state and local agencies. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is aggressively recruiting for this deportation-collaboration program. It is now offering cash to local police in exchange for "locating" our immigrant neighbors, as it attempts to reach a level of deportations never seen in our nation's history. **President Donald Trump campaigned on the promise to remove 20 million people from the country. That's 5.8 percent of our population.**

The new reimbursement opportunities for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE allow ICE to fully reimburse participating agencies for the annual salary and benefits of each eligible trained 287(g) officer, including **overtime coverage up to 25%** of the officer's annual salary. Law enforcement agencies will also be eligible for quarterly monetary performance awards based on the successful location of illegal aliens provided by ICE and overall assistance in furthering ICE's mission to defend the homeland. ICE 287(g) has become a cash cow for law enforcement agencies.

While many elected officials and officers may believe, or they being misled that they are removing the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens" from America, local law enforcement officers who used to participate for the people and communities they served, and who were paid for by taxpayers, are part of Trump's campaign promise to remove **20 million** people from the country and Stephen Miller's destructive plan to carry out the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, with a target of 1 million deportations per year, under the false **pretext** of detaining the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens."

In my opinion, Houston City Attorney Arturo Michel argued that the measure to restrict officers from holding people due to civil immigration warrants was not only lawful under SB 4 but mandated by the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures. This is moot because, under the false **pretext** of detaining the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens," the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), on September 2, 2025, announced new reimbursement

opportunities for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE to arrest the “Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens.”

The problem is that people detained for ICE, mostly Hispanics and undocumented immigrants, are being detained by law enforcement officers under the false pretext of a federal law, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, that calls for ICE to arrest the “Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens.”

Most of the undocumented immigrants detained by HPD and held for ICE are on noncriminal administrative warrants and are not criminals.

**In fact, according to independent analyses of ICE data from 2025 and early 2026, while ICE arrests have increased significantly, the majority of undocumented immigrants arrested, approximately 70% to 73%, do not have criminal convictions.**

Attorney Arturo Michel also stated, “The Fifth Circuit and Texas courts have consistently held that routine traffic stops are investigative detentions that must be justified by reasonable suspicion and limited in scope to the original purpose of the stop,” Michel wrote in a memo obtained by Houston Public Media. “This principle applies equally when ICE administrative warrants are discovered during routine warrant checks. Peace officers may question individuals about immigration status during traffic stops if such questioning does not prolong the detention beyond the time reasonably required for the stop’s original purpose.”

My question is: What is the “reasonable suspicion” for officers detaining undocumented immigrants, other than the fact that they are undocumented immigrants, when being in the United States without legal status is not a criminal offense?

Furthermore, HPD detaining undocumented immigrants on “reasonable suspicion” since the federal law Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act relates to immigration and implies that officers assume undocumented immigrants are the “Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens.” This amounts to racial profiling, which is clearly against federal law and HPD policy.

I would like to have a meeting, a call-to-action meeting, to discuss our next plan of action regarding Mr. Paxton stating that he will “absolutely stop” the city’s implementation of the new policy prohibiting police officers from detaining people or prolonging traffic stops due to civil immigration warrants, and his raising the specter of removing elected officials from office.

This matter is bigger than any one of us. At a later date, we will need to invite all the groups that signed on to support the ordinance, so we can assure the community, and especially undocumented immigrants, that they have our support and that we oppose Trump's campaign promise to remove 20 million people from the country and Stephen Miller's destructive plan to carry out the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, with a target of 1 million deportations per year, under the false **pretext** of detaining the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens."

This is alarming and should concern everyone, including elected officials and law enforcement agencies, who are now possibly breaking federal law and their own department's racial profiling policies.

Who's next? Undocumented immigrants today, and anyone without a state ID tomorrow.

I have compiled my research on this matter. Please see my attached research.

All the Best,

Mr. Hai Bui

Founder of We the People Organize

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