



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 15, 2026**

## **Is Mayor Whitmire, Abbott, Paxton, and Chief Diaz putting the ICE 287(g) Program before Public Safety for officers to work with ICE?**

We believe the Mayor, Abbott, and Paxton are supporting President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill ICE 287(g) Program, under the federal Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which calls for ICE to arrest the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens."

On September 2, 2025, DHS announced new reimbursement opportunities for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE to arrest the "Worst of the Worst Criminal Illegal Aliens."

The new reimbursement and expansion of the 287(g) Program turn local police into deportation agents, unleashing an all-out attack and rounding up undocumented immigrants, mostly Hispanics.

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.

Texas SB 4 prohibits cities from passing policies to stop law enforcement agencies from working with ICE, and SB 8 strengthens immigration enforcement statewide.

Both SB 4 and SB 8 allow officers to participate in the ICE 287(g) Program.

WTPO and taxpayers want answers. We deserve honesty and transparency.

Is Mayor Whitmire, Abbott, Paxton, and Chief Diaz putting the ICE 287(g) Program before Public Safety for officers to work with ICE?

1. Does the Houston Police Department participate in the ICE 287(g) Program Enforcement and Removal Operations Models, mainly the Task Force Model?
2. Which one of the four ICE 287(g) Program Models is the Houston Police Department participating in?

The Jail Enforcement Model is designed to identify and process removable aliens — with criminal or pending criminal charges — who are arrested by state or local law enforcement agencies.

The Task Force Model serves as a force multiplier for law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight during their routine police duties.

The Tribal Task Force Model serves as a force multiplier for tribal law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight under Title 25 USC 2804.

The Warrant Service Officer program allows ICE to train, certify, and authorize state and local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants on aliens in their agency's jail.

3. Are there any HPD officers participating in ICE 287(g) Program Enforcement and Removal Operations Models?
4. Which one of the four ICE 287(g) Program Models are HPD officers participating in?

A. The Jail Enforcement Model is designed to identify and process removable aliens — with criminal or pending criminal charges — who are arrested by state or local law enforcement agencies.

B. The Task Force Model serves as a force multiplier for law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight during their routine police duties.

C. The Tribal Task Force Model serves as a force multiplier for tribal law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight under Title 25 USC 2804.

D. The Warrant Service Officer program allows ICE to train, certify, and authorize state and local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants on aliens in their agency's jail.

5. How many officers are participating in the ICE 287(g) Program?
6. How many officers, past and present, participate or participated in any ICE 287(g) Program?
7. How long has HPD participated in the ICE 287(g) Program?
8. In what year or years did HPD participate in any ICE 287(g) Program?
9. Does HPD have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), also known as a 287(g) agreement, with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?
10. Does HPD have any agreement with the State or United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that would interfere with any kind of funding and Public Safety?
11. What are the names of such agreements with the State or United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that would interfere with any kind of funding and Public Safety?
12. As taxpayers, can we, the public, the media, or City Council members, have a copy of the 14-page Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), also known as a 287(g) Agreement, between United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and HPD?
13. Is HPD being fully reimbursed under DHS's new reimbursement opportunities for state and local law enforcement partnering with ICE under the 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 for participating in ICE 287(g) Enforcement and Removal Operations Models?
14. Is HPD's participation in the ICE 287(g) Program the reason why HPD closed the HPD Community Affairs Division?

15. Was the HPD Community Affairs Division closed because HPD officers are needed to participate in the ICE 287(g) Program?
  16. Why wasn't there any public input before Community Affairs was dissolved?
  17. How could HPD participate in the ICE 287(g) Program with a significant staffing shortage as early as 2026, which reached approximately 1,200 vacancies?
  18. How could HPD participate in the ICE 287(g) Program with a personnel shortage that resulted in its failing to investigate 264,000 cases in 2024?
  19. Did HPD's participation in the ICE 287(g) Program result in HPD failing to investigate 264,000 cases in 2024?
  20. Is Mayor Whitmire, Abbott, Paxton, and Chief Diaz putting the ICE 287(g) Program before Public Safety for officers to work with ICE?
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## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENT FROM WE THE PEOPLE ORGANIZE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 15, 2026**

### **We the People Organize Urges Houston to Fight State Coercion, Not Repeal ICE Policy**

**HOUSTON, TX** — We the People Organize condemns Governor Greg Abbott, Attorney General Ken Paxton, and Mayor John Whitmire for turning Houston into the latest target of political intimidation and Public Safety blackmail.

After Houston City Council voted to limit how long Houston police officers may hold someone for ICE on a civil immigration warrant, Governor Abbott threatened to strip the city of \$110 million in Public Safety funding, Attorney General Paxton launched an investigation, and Mayor Whitmire reversed course and moved to repeal the policy rather than defend Houston in court.

Let's be clear: this is not simply a policy disagreement. It is a test of whether Houston will govern itself or surrender to political pressure from Austin.

Civil ICE administrative warrants are not criminal warrants signed by a judge. Local police should not be stretched beyond the lawful purpose of a stop simply to satisfy the political demands of Greg Abbott and Ken Paxton. Instead of respecting constitutional limits and local decision-making, state officials chose coercion.

Mayor Whitmire's reversal is especially troubling. Just days after voting for the ordinance, he declared, "There's only one opinion that matters, and that's the governor's." That statement should alarm every Houstonian. It suggests that the mayor believes Houston's policies should be dictated not by the city's legal judgment or democratic process, but by threats from the governor's office.

This is not leadership. It is capitulation.

Council Member Alejandra Salinas and civil-rights advocates have made clear that repeal is not Houston's only option. The city can and should go to court immediately to challenge the state's coercive actions. The ACLU of Texas has also condemned Abbott's threat, warning that it endangers Public Safety for political gain.

“This is bigger than one ordinance,” said Hai Bui, Founder of We the People Organize. “Greg Abbott and Ken Paxton are trying to bully Houston into submission, and Mayor Whitmire is helping them do it. A mayor who says the governor’s opinion is the only one that matters is not leading Houston. He is surrendering Houston.”

Public Safety requires sound policy, constitutional restraint, and city leaders who will defend Houston’s authority instead of surrendering it to political pressure.

We the People Organize urges Mayor Whitmire and the Houston City Council to reject repeal, pursue all available legal remedies, and defend Houston’s right to govern itself.

**HPD is not ICE.**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/houston/article/houston-city-council-consider-repealing-new-ice-22205556.php>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/houston/article/whitmire-abbott-ice-policy-22204589.php>

<https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/14/houston-texas-ice-ordinance-repeal-abbott-whitmire/>

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**We Hold Elected Officials and Police Accountable**

