

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
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Joseph V. Cuffari
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Department of Homeland Security
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Secretary Noem, Acting Director Lyons, and Inspector General Cuffari:

We write with grave concern about the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decision to continue ramping up immigration enforcement operations across the Chicago area following the September 12 death of 38-year-old Mexican national Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez and injury to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in Franklin Park, Illinois.

According to statements issued by DHS, ICE officers conducted a targeted traffic stop to arrest Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez—whom DHS officials have alleged was undocumented and had a “history of reckless driving”—when he “drove his car at law enforcement officers,” hit one of the officers, and dragged him, which led the officer to fire his weapon at Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez.¹ Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez had reportedly dropped his children off at school moments prior to the incident. He crashed his vehicle into a semi-trailer truck after being struck by the officer's bullet.² He was then detained and transported to a local hospital, where he died from his injuries.³

However, publicly-released surveillance footage appears to be inconsistent with DHS's description of events. Video footage shows two officers exiting an unmarked vehicle and approaching Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez's vehicle from both sides, followed by the officer on the passenger side attempting to open the vehicle's door and Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez's vehicle

¹ Department of Homeland Security, *DHS Statement on ICE Officer Seriously Injured in Line of Duty and Shooting in Chicago During Traffic Stop*, (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/12/dhs-statement-ice-officer-seriously-injured-line-duty-and-shooting-chicago-during>.

² Sophie Sherry, Cindy Hernandez, Emmanuel Camarillo and Mariah Rush, *ICE officer fatally shoots man during traffic stop in Chicago suburb, authorities say*, WBEZ Chicago (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/09/12/ice-officer-fatally-shoots-man-during-traffic-stop-in-chicago-suburb-authorities-say>; Jordan King, *Dad Killed by ICE After Hitting Agent With Car Had Just Dropped Kids at School*, NEWSWEEK (Sept. 14, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-shot-chicago-silverio-villegas-gonzalez-2129559>.

³ *Id.*

reversing and driving away from the officers. Two gunshots can be heard being fired at the vehicle in the footage, despite oncoming traffic.⁴

Any injury or loss of life is tragic. The death of Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez, the injuries to the officer, and the danger the incident posed to the community warrant transparency, oversight, and accountability. For this reason, we submit the following questions and request a response by October 14, 2025:

1. What law enforcement agencies were involved in coordinating Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez's traffic stop?
2. Did DHS and ICE coordinate with or inform local officials before conducting this enforcement operation?
3. What specific, articulable facts did the ICE officers rely on to conclude that reasonable suspicion existed to conduct a lawful traffic stop in this case?
4. DHS indicated this was a targeted operation. Please provide a copy of any warrants for Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez's arrest.
5. What facts support the allegation that Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez had a history of reckless driving?
6. What is the standard protocol for ICE officers conducting targeted traffic stops? What safety training related to traffic stops do ICE officers receive, particularly when encountering their targets in oncoming traffic, to ensure their own safety and the safety of others?
7. What are ICE officers trained to say to targets being arrested in the middle of traffic to limit potential dangers for themselves or others? How does that change if a potential target does not speak English?
8. Under what authority are officers allowed to forcibly open car doors without a warrant?
9. Which of the officers was hit by Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez, and at what point (while the car was reversing or while it was driving away)?
10. Private surveillance footage reportedly shows "a person [running] alongside the driver's side door" as it accelerates forward, and "running after the car after it leaves the frame."⁵ Please describe exactly how the officer at the front driver's window was dragged when Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez reversed his car and drove away. Was the officer holding onto the vehicle or was he somehow caught on the car and unable to detach himself?
11. What training do ICE officers receive regarding use of deadly force, including when encountering vehicles attempting to evade officers?
12. Publicly-released body camera footage from local law enforcement officers shows one of the ICE officers saying he was "dragged a little bit,"⁶ yet DHS statements said he was

⁴ CBS News, *Surveillance videos capture deadly ICE shooting in Franklin Park, Illinois* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/video/surveillance-videos-capture-deadly-ice-shooting-in-franklin-park-illinois/>.

⁵ Caroline Kubzansky, Jason Meisner and Madeline Buckley, *Video shows aftermath of controversial ICE shooting, including agent originally described as critically injured*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/09/23/video-ice-franklin-park-shooting/>.

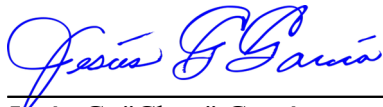
⁶ Sara Tenenbaum, *Body cam video show aftermath of deadly ICE shooting in Franklin Park, agent says injuries are "nothing major"*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/franklin-park-illinois-ice-shooting-body-cam-video/>; *supra*, note 1.

- dragged “a significant distance.” How far was the officer dragged by the car?
13. What led the officer to believe that Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, and the only available option was the use of deadly force?
 14. In addition to firearms, were the ICE officers carrying less-lethal weapons designed to incapacitate individuals? What training do ICE officers receive for using less-lethal force to reduce risk of death or serious injury?
 15. Were any bystanders injured as a result of this incident?
 16. What are standard medical assistance procedures following injury to an individual in a targeted operation? What medical assistance, if any, was rendered to Mr. Villegas-Gonzalez in the immediate aftermath of the crash and by whom? How soon after the crash were emergency medical services called, and when did they arrive? Please provide any records related to these emergency efforts.
 17. Publicly-released body camera footage from local law enforcement officers shows one of the ICE officers describing his injuries as “nothing major.”⁷ What were the nature and extent of the officer’s injuries?
 18. Reporting indicates that the ICE officers involved in the incident were not wearing Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs).⁸ Please explain why these officers were not wearing BWCs.

Given the seriousness of this incident, we further request an investigation by the DHS Office of Inspector General and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



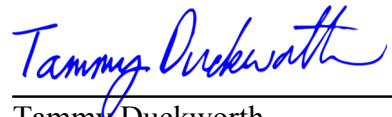
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Committee on the Judiciary

⁷ *Supra*, note 5.

⁸ Laura Strickler and Selina Guevara, *ICE officers in fatal Chicago shooting weren't wearing body cameras*, NBC NEWS (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-officers-fatal-chicago-shooting-not-wearing-body-cameras-rcna231727>.



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United States Senator
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Delia C. Ramirez
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