



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 6, 2017

Chairman Shawn Handley
Immigration Enforcement Review Board
270 Washington Street, SW
Room 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Chairman Handley:

Recognizing that sanctuary policies create sanctuaries for criminals – and to ensure that every criminal illegal alien encountered by our law enforcement officers is arrested, transferred to federal custody, and deported – the State of Georgia has enacted strong laws that prohibit any local government from restricting communication and cooperation with federal immigration officials. Enforcing the State of Georgia's prohibition on sanctuary immigration policies is one of the primary responsibilities held by the Immigration Enforcement Review Board. As such, please find attached a formal complaint filed against the City of Decatur, which is in violation of OCGA § 36-80-23.

On September 29, 2017, local officials in Decatur adopted a General Order, which threatens the city's law enforcement officers with disciplinary action for fully communicating and cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and federal law enforcement. After this policy was adopted, I immediately reached out to city officials, requesting the General Order be amended to clearly state local law enforcement officers are free to communicate and cooperate with federal officials concerning immigration status information. Perplexingly, the City of Decatur has failed to act on behalf of our citizens.

It seems clear to me – and to thousands of Georgians who have voiced their outrage at the recklessness of this policy – that fully communicating and cooperating with federal officials means utilizing legally authorized ICE detainers to make certain that our officers can arrest every criminal illegal alien they apprehend. Because the individuals in question are already here illegally, ICE detainers and information provided through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database are vitally important tools used to identify threats to the safety of Georgians.



We know that each year far too many brutal crimes are committed against Georgians by criminal illegal aliens. Recent data shared with my office from the Department of Corrections showed that last month 1,316 convicted criminals with ICE detainers resided in our state prisons; and so far, through June 30 of FY17, the Atlanta field office of ICE has processed the removal of 6,558 criminal illegal aliens.

Ultimately, it is our responsibility to preserve the rule of law and to protect our law enforcement officers from any unjustified disciplinary action for upholding their oath to keep Georgians safe. I expect that upon evaluating the information presented before Georgia's Immigration Enforcement Review Board, the City of Decatur will be found in violation of our state's prohibition on sanctuary policies.

I stand ready to assist the board as your investigation and review moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey Cagle".

Casey Cagle
Lt. Governor of Georgia

CC: Governor Nathan Deal
Speaker David Ralston
Attorney General Chris Carr
Mayor Patti Garrett, City of Decatur
Chief of Police Mike Booker, City of Decatur
Bryan Downs, Attorney City of Decatur