

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 31, 2024

Kristin Graziano
Sheriff
County of Charleston, South Carolina
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Sheriff Graziano:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating why some local law enforcement officials—yourself among them—are refusing to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that illegal aliens booked into your jails pending criminal charges can be taken into custody by ICE prior to their release.

This refusal to cooperate endangers local residents. Cooperation should be occurring primarily through 287(g) agreements that ICE enters into with local officials. These agreements enable sufficient cooperation and hold time in local jails to permit ICE to safely take custody of illegal aliens charged with crimes before they are released back into communities. Yet, you chose to rescind Charleston County’s existing 287(g) agreement with ICE on your first day as Sheriff on January 5, 2021.¹

Aside from rescinding the 287(g) agreement, your office, has also refused to honor at least 51 detainer requests issued by ICE, according to that agency’s own data. That includes one that appears to be for an illegal alien who was arrested and charged with two counts of criminal solicitation of a minor and then released back into the community.²

Due to your actions, ICE has designated Charleston County a “non-cooperative” institution for refusing to detain criminal aliens long enough for ICE to take custody of them.³

¹ Press Release, Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, “*Sheriff Kristin Graziano to end Charleston County Sheriff’s Office Optional 287(g) Agreement with ICE*,” January 4, 2021.

² The ICE detainer data cited here is posted on the Committee’s hearing repository site at [HHRG-118-GO06-20240925-SD012.pdf](https://www.oversight.house.gov/hearing-repository/HHRG-118-GO06-20240925-SD012.pdf)

³ U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, “*Detainer Acceptance Tracker – Limited and Non-cooperative institutions*,” June 21, 2024. It is posted on the Committee’s hearing repository site at [HHRG-118-GO06-20240925-SD017.pdf](https://www.oversight.house.gov/hearing-repository/HHRG-118-GO06-20240925-SD017.pdf)

Documentary evidence of these facts was submitted for the record by Representative Mace at a September 25 hearing entitled, “The Border Crisis: The Cost of Chaos,” held by the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs.⁴

To better understand why your jurisdiction is refusing to facilitate custody by ICE of illegal aliens who have committed crimes—including violent crimes—we request that you provide the following information, covering the time period January 4, 2021 to the present unless otherwise indicated, by November 10, 2024:

1. All text, SMS, iMessage or any other messaging communications, to include messages transmitted via telecommunications apps, including Signal or WhatsApp, between any employee of the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office and any employee of ICE;
2. All documents relating to detainer requests issued by ICE to the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office;
3. All documents relating to inadmissible or removable aliens apprehended by the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, including the criminal charge brought against each such individual, and whether the individual was released from custody;
4. All text, SMS, iMessage or any other messaging communications, to include messages transmitted via telecommunications apps, including Signal or WhatsApp, between employees of the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office pertaining to the termination of the 287(g) memorandum of agreement between Charleston County and ICE;
5. All text, SMS, iMessage or any other messaging communications, to include messages transmitted via telecommunications apps, including Signal or WhatsApp, between employees of the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office pertaining to the potential or actual impact on community safety of the revocation of the 287(g) memorandum of agreement.

If you fail to produce the requested documents by November 10, 2024, the Committee will consider additional measures, including use of the compulsory process, to gain compliance and obtain this critical material.

To arrange for the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee.

⁴ “*The Border Crisis: The Cost of Chaos*,” Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs, September 25, 2024. Documents submitted for the record are individually posted on the Committee’s hearing repository site at <https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=117693>

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy Mace
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information,
Technology and Government Innovation



Glenn Grothman
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
the Border, and Foreign Affairs

cc: The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs