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New Orleans City Council

December 5, 2025

Mr. Gregory Bovino
Border Patrol Commander
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commander Bovino,

We, Mayor-Elect Helena Moreno and the undersigned members of the New Orleans City Council, are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent actions taken by Border Patrol in our city as part of Operation Catahoula Crunch. While we fully support efforts to uphold the law and protect public safety, we are increasingly alarmed by the impact this operation is having on our community.

As representatives of the people of New Orleans, we firmly believe that dangerous and violent criminals, regardless of immigration status, should be removed from our streets. However, Operation Catahoula Crunch does not appear to be focused on targeting these individuals. Instead, it is causing widespread fear and confusion, disproportionately affecting vulnerable members of our community. Businesses are closing, workers are afraid to show up, and the broader economic impact is significant.

Currently, the City of New Orleans is seeing a significant reduction in violent crime due to investment in prevention strategies along with the hard work of the New Orleans Police Department and its partners, but more can be done, therefore, we would welcome discussion on helpful initiatives for the City with federal officials.

Now that Operation Catahoula Crunch has begun, we demand it be conducted transparently, lawfully, and with full respect for the rights of New Orleans residents, therefore we request:

1. Reporting Requirements to Ensure Public Trust

We request that Border Patrol provide regular public briefings that include:

- Data on stops, detentions, warrants, and outcomes.
- Information on how civil rights compliance is being monitored during enforcement actions.

We also request the following specific information:

- The number of individuals detained within city limits.
- The legal basis for each detention, including warrants or charges.

- Whether any individuals without outstanding warrants have been detained.
- Whether any detained individual has any prior criminal history, including whether any offenses and/or convictions were classified as violent.

This transparency is vital to ensure the public can trust that enforcement actions are focused on the most dangerous criminals.

2. Due Process Protections

As elected officials, we believe that every person—regardless of immigration status—has constitutional rights. We expect the following protections for anyone encountered by federal agents:

- Prompt access to legal representation.
- Clear notification of rights during encounters with law enforcement.
- No detentions without properly issued warrants or clear probable cause.

3. Unmasked and Uniformed Agents

We echo the request of NOPD Chief Anne Kirkpatrick that federal agents conducting operations in New Orleans be clearly identifiable as law enforcement. We ask that agents wear full uniforms and refrain from wearing masks during enforcement actions. This will help avoid confusion and enhance public safety by ensuring that agents are easily identifiable.

4. Safeguards Against Discriminatory Enforcement

We insist that no person be stopped or detained based on race, ethnicity, national origin, language, or perceived immigration status. To ensure that these standards are being met, we ask that Border Patrol provide demographic data from stops and detentions to monitor for potential patterns of discriminatory enforcement.

5. Humanitarian Considerations

Any individuals detained during this operation should be afforded basic humanitarian protections, including:

- Access to medical care and necessary medications.
- Access to language interpretation services.
- Notification of family members of their detention.

We urge your office to uphold these standards to ensure that all individuals are treated humanely, regardless of their immigration status.

In conclusion, as members of the New Orleans City Council, we are committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and rights of all who live in or visit our city. We request your prompt attention to the concerns outlined above and look forward to your response. We trust that Border Patrol will take steps to address

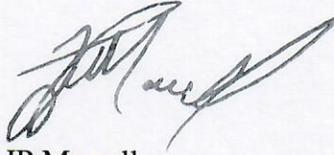
these issues and conduct operations that are both effective and respectful of the rights of New Orleans residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Helena Moreno
Mayor-Elect
City Council Vice President



JP Morrell
City Council President



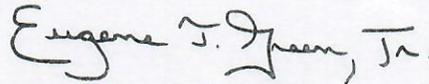
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