

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



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STATEMENT OF LAW DIRECTOR WALLY DIETZ

MAY 7, 2025

Multiple journalists and the Metro Council have requested a complete accounting of the timeline of events through the lens of Metro Government for the late evening and early morning hours of May 3 - 4 when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained a number of people during traffic stops. Today, during a special called meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee, we will provide the following summary of events as we know them today.

The coordinated activity between THP and ICE caught everyone at Metro by surprise. MNPd confirms they played no role and were not involved in any way with the joint operation. THP's own statement confirms there was no MNPd involvement. Additionally, I have seen no evidence to indicate MNPd participation.

The following timeline addresses numerous questions raised over recent days:

Thursday May 1, 2025 at 11:47 am:

A man identifying himself as "Inspector Jackson Sanders" from the Federal Protective Service of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (the entity that safeguards federal buildings) telephoned the Department of Emergency Communications to request extra police patrol at Nashville's ICE facility on Sunday. Sanders told the call taker that there would be operations throughout the weekend and there was a concern of backlash by families coming to the ICE Facility on Sunday.

The call taker entered the information into the computer system and "scheduled" the extra patrol request, much as you would set an alarm, to appear on the Sunday dispatcher's screen at 10 a.m.

Overnight Saturday, May 3 and early hours on Sunday, May 4:

THP and ICE conduct a joint operation in Nashville resulting in approximately 150 traffic stops and "a few" arrests. There was no involvement by MNPd.

Sunday morning, May 4

The automated message from the queue was sent by DEC to MNPd.

Upon seeing the request for extra patrol appear on her computer screen at 10 a.m., a DEC dispatcher relayed the request for extra patrol at 501 Brick Church Park Drive to North Precinct Sergeant Megan Lamon and North Precinct Officer Cory Bean at 10:04 a.m. The call text, as typed by the call taker on Thursday and dispatched to the sergeant and officer on Sunday, reads as follows: "Req Xtra patrol for every hour on Sunday / concerned there will be retaliate from family members on Sunday due to detaining subjs."

Seeing the unusual call text for the first time, the sergeant and the officer drove to the ICE facility after the 10:04 a.m. dispatch. They went inside to inquire what the call was about. Around this same time, Metro officials and the MNPd began hearing reports of an overnight ICE operation in South Nashville.

After inquiring what the call was about, the sergeant and officer left the facility. The officer answered unrelated calls Sunday morning before returning to 501 Brick Church Park Drive to do an extra patrol. As he drove around from the backside of the property, he saw that the driveway was mostly blocked by people who had gathered. The officer made his way through and the MNPd personnel who had responded concerning a potential protest left the property. To ensure public safety, officers monitored the crowd of people from across the way until they were relieved by the THP.

Conclusion

After reviewing the calls, talking with the departments involved, and reviewing publicly released information from the THP and ICE, there is no evidence to suggest MNPd involvement in the joint operation. MNPd routinely receives requests for extra patrols for a variety of reasons and responds to the extent resources are available.

Moreover, the names of those detained and the reason for their detainment are not known by Metro. I have sent a letter to THP requesting the names of people arrested and the charges against them. THP has replied stating that I need to complete an Open Records request. Late Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security claimed to have made arrests in conjunction with criminal activity but have provided no information to identify an alleged perpetrator or their charges.

Earlier today, I sent the attached letter to three different ICE offices requesting detailed information on the names and charges of those arrested.

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May 7, 2025

U.S. Immigration and Enforcement Office

Field Office Location
501 Brick Church Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37207

1250 Poydras
Suite 325
New Orleans, LA 70113

NewOrleans.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

ICE Leadership

500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

ICE-OPR-GIGLIO@ice.dhs.gov

ICE-FOIA@dhs.gov

Dear Officials of ICE/HSI/ERO:

On May 4, Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) issued a statement that the THP, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) collaborated to conduct an enforcement action in Nashville overnight on Saturday/Sunday May 3 and 4 (the "Enforcement Action"). According to the THP statement, the Enforcement Action included approximately 150 traffic stops, and troopers made "a few" arrests for outstanding warrants.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPd) advises, and the THP statement indicates, that MNPd was not involved in the Enforcement Action. However, Metro has received numerous requests to help identify the individuals who were taken into

custody by HSI or ICE. Multiple buses loaded with an undetermined number of people left ICE's Nashville field office on May 4.

Two things are true: First, the Metropolitan Government fully supports efforts to arrest and charge violent offenders so they can have their day in court, face punishment, and then possible deportation based on lawful determinations of immigration status. Second, while this office does not represent any individual detained by your Enforcement Action, the Metropolitan Government supports the brave advocates in our community who are demanding that every person in your custody receives full due process rights. And, families and friends are entitled to know where their loved ones are being detained.

On behalf of Mayor O'Connell and other Metro officials, I am asking ICE to produce the names of all individuals taken into custody by ICE and HSI/ERO as part of the Enforcement Action in and around Nashville on May 4 and 5, 2025 and the location(s) where the individuals are being detained.

I respectfully ask that you provide the requested information as soon as possible and without the need to file a FOIA request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wallace W. Dietz", with a stylized, cursive script.

Wallace W. Dietz