



## Immigrant Caucus

Metropolitan Council

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Metro Council Immigrant Caucus Responds to DHS Enforcement Operation in Nashville**

**NASHVILLE, TN** — The Metro Council Immigrant Caucus, in the strongest possible terms, condemns the tactics, scope, and narrative used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its May 13, 2025, press release touting recent arrests in Nashville. While we all share a commitment to public safety, true safety is never achieved through fear-based enforcement that harms entire communities under false pretenses.

Let us be clear: accountability must never come at the expense of due process, human dignity, or community trust. The language and framing in the DHS announcement dangerously stigmatize entire immigrant communities in Nashville and misrepresents the reality of what has transpired.

While the presence of organized crime must be addressed, we cannot ignore the broader, harmful impact of these raids. Local reports confirm that federal agents—acting under the guise of public safety—approached children at bus stops, interrogated them about their parents' immigration status, and left a 9-year-old child alone for hours after his parent was detained. A father was arrested on the way home from buying birthday decorations for his son and a beloved church elder was violently pulled from his car on his 55th birthday.

These are not isolated incidents—they are part of a pattern and practice of trauma and fear disproportionately inflicted on Nashville's immigrant families. This is not safety. This is state-sanctioned fear.

Furthermore, the ongoing collaboration between state agencies and federal immigration enforcement erodes public safety, rather than enhancing it. When community members are afraid to report abuse, contact emergency services, or cooperate with local law enforcement, the safety of all Nashvillians is undermined.

In response to the human toll of these actions, the City of Nashville—in partnership with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee—launched the Belonging Fund, a privately supported initiative that provides emergency assistance for housing, food, childcare, and transportation to families who have been directly affected due to the ICE raids. Contrary to misinformation circulated in the DHS press release, this fund is not taxpayer-funded. The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Conexión Americas, and Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors committed more than \$30,000 to help seed the new fund. Community members can donate to the [Belonging Fund](#) or [Nashville Unidos Fund](#).

We call on city and state leaders to:

- Reject DHS's harmful and misleading framing of these operations;
- Investigate the full scope and conduct of these enforcement actions in Nashville;
- Demand transparency and accountability from any agency participating in or facilitating these efforts;
- End local partnerships that enable fear, racial profiling, and family separation.

Nashville must not be complicit. Our city can and must lead with compassion, fairness, and courage. Our immigrant communities deserve protection—not persecution. We must be a city that welcomes, not one that scapegoats.

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For more information about the Metro Council Immigrant Caucus and upcoming efforts to support immigrant families, please contact Councilmember Terry Vo at [terry.vo@nashville.gov](mailto:terry.vo@nashville.gov) or 615-854-8517.

About the Metro Council Immigrant Caucus: The Metro Council Immigrant Caucus is a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to representing the interests and concerns of immigrant communities within Nashville, TN. Comprised of dedicated At-Large and district leaders, the caucus aims to promote inclusivity, equity, and opportunity for all residents. Through advocacy, collaboration, and community engagement, the Immigrant Caucus seeks to address the unique challenges faced by immigrant communities and create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all.