



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**OCT 25 2017**

Dear Representative Bonamici:

Thank you for your September 22, and October 20, 2017 letters regarding recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Both incidents referenced in your letters are currently under review. Acting Director Homan asked that I respond on his behalf.

ICE's mandate to enforce the nation's immigration laws requires ICE officers to identify, locate, and remove aliens present in the United States in violation of the law. For this reason, ICE officers have been granted statutory authority to, without a warrant, approach a person believed to be an alien, and to ask questions about his right to be or to remain in the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(1), 8 C.F.R. § 287.5(a)(1). Of course, such questioning must comply with the requirements of the Fourth Amendment. ICE officers participate in mandatory bi-annual Fourth Amendment training, as well as additional Fourth Amendment refresher training prior to participating in large-scale enforcement actions.

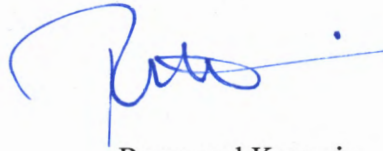
In general, when conducting at-large arrests and other field operations, ICE officers are instructed to take environmental conditions into account and make determinations regarding their level of visibility in order to protect themselves and the public. In high visibility situations, ICE officers use several means to identify themselves including, but not limited to, wearing placards or clothing that clearly identifies them as immigration officers. However, in certain situations, high visibility attire hinders or endangers safety and officers may decide not to broadcast their identity. Even in low visibility situations, officers are required to identify themselves to individuals they stop for questioning as part of their official duties.

Your September 22, 2017 letter refers to a video of the encounter between the ICE officers and Mr. and Ms. Isidro Andrade-Tafolla. Any recording that failed to capture the beginning of the encounter when officer self-identification took place should not be relied upon to allege the officers failed to identify themselves as ICE officers. While the video only partially captures the encounter, it does serve to illustrate the hostile environment that ICE officers must confront every day. In spite of being verbally abused, ICE officers demonstrated great restraint and professionalism throughout the encounter.

Please be assured the ICE officers did not target Mr. Andrade-Tafolla on the basis of his race or ethnicity. With respect to the specific circumstances surrounding the questioning of Mr. Isidro Andrade-Tafolla on September 18, 2017, please see the enclosed ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Office response sent earlier this month.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 732-4200. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Kovacic', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond Kovacic  
Assistant Director  
Office of Congressional Relations

Enclosure