

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Mark R. Warner

703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine

231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John J. McGuire III

1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger

Office of the Governor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Jay Jones

Office of the Attorney General
Barbara Johns Building
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Request for Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability in Federal Immigration Enforcement

Dear Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Representative McGuire, Governor Spanberger, and Attorney General Jones:

On behalf of the City of Charlottesville, I write to express deep concern about recent federal immigration enforcement actions and to respectfully request greater transparency, clearer standards, and meaningful accountability for the conduct of federal officers operating in our communities.

Charlottesville is home to a diverse population that includes immigrants, refugees, students, and long-time residents alike. Our community's safety, stability, and economic vitality depend on trust in public institutions and confidence that all people will be treated with dignity and respect under the law.

Recent events in Minneapolis, where two United States citizens were fatally shot during a federal immigration enforcement operation, have shaken communities across the country and raised

urgent questions about the tactics, decision-making, and accountability structures surrounding federal enforcement. My words cannot adequately capture the profound impact such incidents have on public confidence, civil liberties, and community trust.

Although these events occurred outside Virginia, they resonate here. When federal enforcement actions appear opaque, aggressive, or disconnected from local public safety values, the effects are felt nationwide. They heighten fear, discourage cooperation with law enforcement, and risk placing both residents and officers in unnecessary danger.

The City of Charlottesville does not seek to limit or obstruct lawful federal authority. We do, however, seek assurance that immigration enforcement activities are carried out in a manner consistent with constitutional protections, basic principles of accountability, and the shared goal of public safety.

To that end, we respectfully request you do all in your power to ensure:

1. Publicly available standards governing federal immigration enforcement tactics, including clear guidance regarding:
 - a. Use-of-force thresholds and de-escalation practices;
 - b. Conduct in and around sensitive locations, including schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship;
 - c. Treatment of bystanders and individuals not subject to detention;
 - d. Procedures when parents or guardians are detained and minors are affected;
 - e. Access to interpretation services and culturally competent communication;
 - f. A prohibition on the concealment of identity by federal immigration officers, including a ban on the use of face coverings, plain clothes, unmarked vehicles, or other tactics that intentionally obscure an officer's identity or official status during enforcement actions, except in narrowly defined circumstances necessary to protect officer safety; and
 - g. An express commitment that federal immigration enforcement operations will comply with long-standing Fourth Amendment jurisprudence, including the requirement that entry into a private residence occur only pursuant to a warrant signed by a neutral judicial officer, and not solely on the basis of an administrative warrant or detainer.
2. Transparent and accessible accountability mechanisms, including:
 - a. A clear process for local governments to request information regarding enforcement actions that affect their communities;
 - b. An independent review pathway for serious incidents involving injury or loss of life; and

- c. A multilingual, publicly accessible method for community members to report concerns about federal officer conduct.

Federal enforcement that is perceived as unaccountable or unnecessarily aggressive undermines trust, weakens community cooperation, and ultimately makes all of us less safe. We believe that clear standards, meaningful oversight, and transparency serve both the public and the dedicated professionals tasked with enforcing the law.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Juandiego Wade
Mayor
City of Charlottesville