

Sanctuary in the Big Apple: NYPD Ignores Thousands of ICE Detainer Requests

Newly released information shows that the New York Police Department denied thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests over a one-year timespan.

The New York Police Department received a total of 2,916 detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement between July 1, 2018, and June 30 of this year, according to data [first obtained](#) by the New York Daily News. Despite the high volume of requests during that time period, every single one was ignored by the NYPD.

A detainer request is an official request from ICE to a law enforcement agency, asking that an individual remain in custody for up to an additional 48 hours so that the agency can assume custody. ICE lodges detainer requests to jails and other detention centers when incarcerated individuals are believed to be deportable from the U.S.

Even when it came to providing basic information about suspected illegal aliens, the NYPD proved reluctant to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. There were only seven instances in which New York City authorities provided ICE with answers when asked about an individual's release date, incarceration status, or court appearances.

"The NYPD does not conduct civil immigration enforcement," Detective Denise Moroney said Monday in a brief response to The Daily Caller News Foundation, reiterating the city's sanctuary policies.

ICE lambasted the practice of ignoring detainer requests in a statement to The Daily Caller News Foundation.

“U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) places detainers on individuals who have been arrested on local criminal charges and who are suspected of being deportable, so that ICE can take custody of that person when he or she is released from local custody,” an ICE official said Monday. “When law enforcement agencies fail to honor immigration detainers and release serious criminal offenders onto the streets, it undermines ICE’s ability to protect public safety and carry out its mission.”

Many proponents of sanctuary city laws argue that ICE detainer requests are not legitimate unless they are accompanied by a warrant. The agency took umbrage with this as well.

“Congress has established no process, requirement, or expectation directing ICE to seek a judicial warrant from already overburdened federal courts before taking custody of an alien on civil immigration violations. This idea is simply a figment created by those who wish to undermine immigration enforcement and excuse the ill-conceived practices of sanctuary jurisdictions that put politics before public safety,” the ICE spokesperson continued.

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