



Corey A. Stewart
Chairman

COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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February 6, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528-0075

Dear Secretary Kelly,

On behalf of the Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County, Virginia (Board), I write to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) provide to the agencies within the County's criminal justice system, information regarding the disposition of all individuals that have been transferred to ICE from the custody of the Prince William County Police Department (PWCPD) and the Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center (ADC) through the 287(g) program. Prince William County supports the federal enforcement of immigration laws, consistent with the County's policy and implementation of the 287(g) program, to detain and deport criminal illegal aliens expeditiously.

The ADC has partnered with ICE since 2007 in identifying illegal immigrants and supporting ICE in issuing 8,373 detainers to remove criminal illegal aliens from our community. During that time, the ADC has transferred 7,491 individuals to ICE custody.

As the elected governing body of Prince William County, the Board funds, maintains, and oversees the PWCPD. The Board is also the primary funding and operational partner of the regional entity that operates the ADC. The ADC, with the authorization of the Board, entered into a Section 287(g) agreement with ICE under which ICE directs certain ADC employees to issue ICE detainers against illegal immigrant offenders. (The PWCPD formerly had such an agreement with ICE, beginning in 2008, which was not renewed by ICE and therefore expired on December 31, 2012.)

The Board has a vital governmental interest in determining the efficacy of the ADC's 287(g) agreement with ICE. In particular, the Board has an interest in knowing what happens to individuals with ICE detainers who are accepted into ICE custody from the ADC. Due to new arrests or local court processes, the ADC has re-encountered 1,083 of the 7,491 individuals (over 14%) previously transferred to ICE custody. Therefore, the

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Board believes that it is reasonable for the purposes of public safety, to analyze any available data from DHS about the status in the deportation process and the last known whereabouts of persons detained by ICE for investigative purposes to ensure that these individuals will no longer pose a risk to the safety of our community.

For some time, Prince William County has sought information from ICE concerning its work in our community. On the street level, our relationship with ICE has been a good one; the ICE agents with whom our public safety personnel have worked have been reliable and committed law enforcement partners and we appreciate their efforts. Since the beginning of this relationship, the PWCPD has been asking for information from ICE concerning the whereabouts of people we have turned over for deportation.

It is our hope that under the new administration, the ADC, the PWCPD, and the courts serving Prince William citizens will have an enhanced information channel with DHS and ICE. Enhanced communication with regard to these individuals will improve public safety, mitigate additional risk to residents of the County, the Commonwealth, and the rest of the country, and reduce potential harm from criminal behavior. Specifically, the Board requests the federal government to report back indicating whether individuals released from our custody to the federal government have been deported to their countries of origin, or if they have been released back into the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact our County Executive, Chris Martino, our Chief of Police Colonel Barry Barnard, or our Regional Jail Superintendent Colonel Pete Meletis if you or your staff have any questions or would like to discuss this matter. I have enclosed their contact information. The County looks forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with the federal government, as we all strive to preserve and enhance public safety for our shared citizenry.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Corey A. Stewart in black ink.

Corey A. Stewart

c: Board of County Supervisors
Christopher E. Martino, County Executive
Michelle R. Robl, County Attorney
Col. Barry M. Barnard, Chief of Police
Col. Pete A. Meletis, Jail Superintendent