

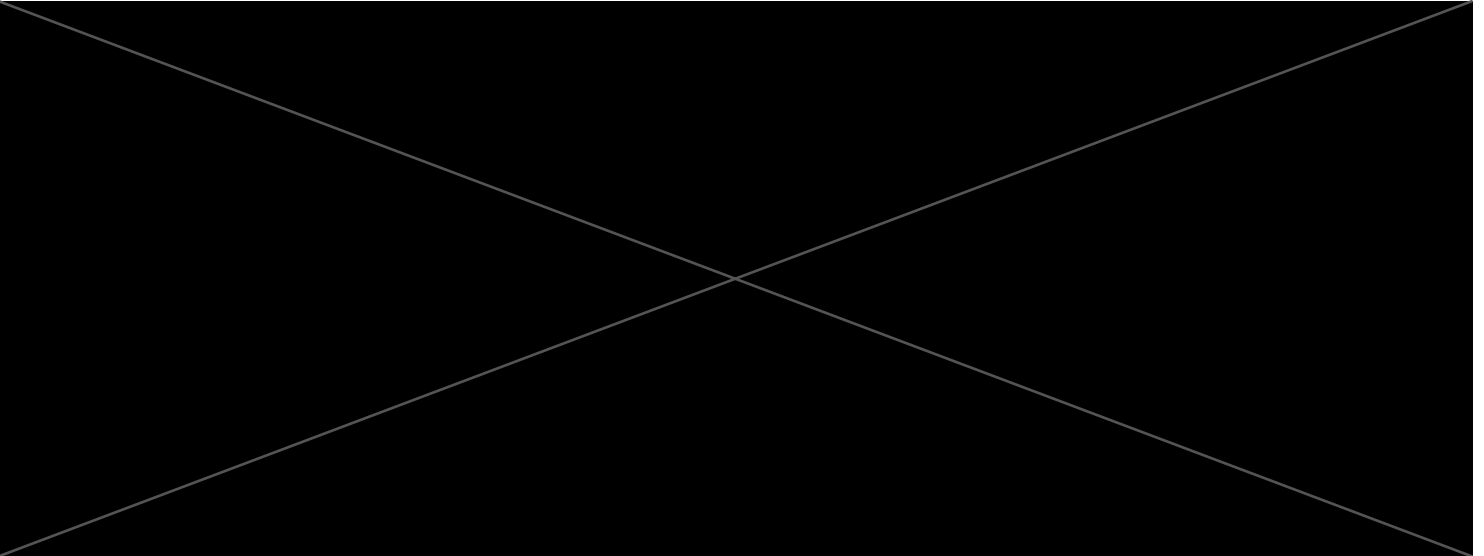


Katrina Callsen &lt;katrina@katrinacallsen.com&gt;

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## Fw: ACPD Collaboration with Homeland Security – Addressing Community Concerns

1 message



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**From:** Sean Reeves <reevess@albemarle.org>

**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 4:43 PM

**To:** Board of Supervisors members <bos@albemarle.org>

**Subject:** ACPD Collaboration with Homeland Security – Addressing Community Concerns

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify recent concerns regarding the Albemarle County Police Department's (ACPD) collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). Given recent national conversations surrounding these welfare checks, I want to reinforce our department's commitment to transparency, public safety, and community trust.

Last week, one of our HSI Task Force officers assisted HSI (not ICE) in conducting welfare checks within our community. This initiative is part of a nationwide effort to locate and assess the well-being of approximately 300,000 unaccompanied minors who were trafficked into the United States. The focus of these checks is on minors whose sponsors have either been convicted of a crime, are registered sex offenders, or have failed to comply with mandated court check-ins.

Our detective, whose Hispanic heritage has helped to establish strong relationships with the local Latin community, works regularly with HSI on human trafficking cases. Their role in these welfare checks is strictly **limited to providing interpretation services** for the sole HSI agent conducting this initiative in our area. It is important to emphasize the following conditions of ACPD's participation:

- Assistance **must not** interfere with any active criminal investigations assigned to the detective.
- ACPD **will not** participate in detentions or removals unless the child is determined to be in immediate danger.

Additionally, welfare checks are an integral part of ACPD's ongoing commitment to community safety. Our officers regularly conduct these checks to ensure the well-being of **all** individuals who may be in distress or unaccounted for. These checks are done at the

request of a community member or by an officer's initiative, or occasionally in conjunction with partner agencies. Over the past three years, ACPD has performed the following welfare checks:

- **2022:** 1,053 welfare checks
- **2023:** 1,086 welfare checks
- **2024:** 1,083 welfare checks

These welfare checks have led to critical interventions, including locating deceased or endangered community members, identifying cases of child abuse, conducting follow-ups initiated by UVA Hospital and Region Ten, and responding to concerns raised by family members and friends.

I recognize that similar welfare check initiatives have prompted concerns in other regions. However, I want to assure the Board and our community that ACPD's approach remains **protective, not punitive**. Our participation is solely aimed at ensuring the welfare of vulnerable children, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to public safety while fostering trust and transparency.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the Board of a communication that I submitted last November (please see below), which further outlines ACPD's philosophy on collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Take care,

~ Col. Reeves

Colonel Sean Reeves

Chief of Police

Albemarle County Police Department

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**From:** Sean Reeves <[reevess@albemarle.org](mailto:reevess@albemarle.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2024 1:36 PM

**To:** Michael Pruitt <[mpruitt@albemarle.org](mailto:mpruitt@albemarle.org)>

**Cc:** Jeff Richardson <[jrichardson3@albemarle.org](mailto:jrichardson3@albemarle.org)>; Trevor Henry <[thenry@albemarle.org](mailto:thenry@albemarle.org)>

**Subject:** Understanding Albemarle County Police's Role in Immigration Enforcement

Supervisor Pruitt,

Thank you for your timely questions regarding the role of Albemarle County police in immigration enforcement.

Over the past few weeks, I have been in direct communication with various stakeholders, including the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Sin Barreras, and local U-Visa attorneys, to discuss the potential impact of mass deportations and the role of local law enforcement. These conversations have provided valuable insights into the concerns and challenges faced by our community members.

In our discussions, we have heard significant concerns and fears from community members regarding Project 2025 and the potential deployment of military forces to enforce immigration laws. There is also uncertainty surrounding the status of refugees who have been settled in central Virginia under Temporary Humanitarian Parole Status, including those from Afghanistan, Africa, Syria, Ukraine, and Latin America.

Recent comments from the incoming Administration have indicated plans to use local law enforcement and possibly the National Guard to assist with deportation operations. However, there are no specific directives at this time detailing what this will look like.

As you may be aware, immigration enforcement is primarily the responsibility of federal agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). However, local law enforcement agencies, including the Albemarle County Police Department, may collaborate with federal authorities in certain situations to ensure public safety and uphold the law. Notably, our department does not inquire into the immigration status of victims or witnesses, and we actively encourage individuals to come forward to report crimes. We believe that if individuals are afraid to report crimes due to their citizenship status, it could lead to an environment where criminal activities such as prostitution, human trafficking, illegal drug trafficking, and domestic abuse may thrive, as these concerns have been reported throughout my career.

Additionally, while there are local law enforcement agencies that participate in the 287(g) program to assist with immigration enforcement, the Albemarle County Police Department does not participate in this program. Our focus remains on safeguarding our community and building trust with all residents, regardless of their immigration status.

The Albemarle County Police Department's policy on immigration enforcement (Policy Manual, Section 428) is detailed as follows:

- 1. Federal Requests for Assistance:** The department may provide support services such as traffic control or peacekeeping efforts.
- 2. Immigration Status Inquiries:** The policy specifies that the department does not inquire into the immigration status of victims or witnesses. This is to ensure that individuals feel safe to report crimes without fear of immigration-related consequences.
- 3. Immigration Detainers:** Individuals should not be held solely based on a federal immigration detainer unless charged with a federal crime or accompanied by a warrant, affidavit of probable cause, or removal order. Notification to the federal authority issuing the detainer should be made prior to release.
- 4. U Visa and T Visa Nonimmigrant Status:** Temporary immigration benefits (U visa and T visa) are available for victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes and human trafficking. Requests for assistance in applying for these visas should be forwarded to the Chief of Police or an authorized designee. The Chief of Police will determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted. The request and completion of the certification or declaration form should be documented and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor.
- 5. Training:** The Recruitment and Training Unit ensures officers receive training on this policy. Training includes identifying civil versus criminal immigration violations and factors to consider in determining whether a criminal immigration offense has

been committed.

Furthermore, the Albemarle County Police Department has a history of collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and ICE on significant cases, including homicide and other major criminal investigations. ACPD currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with HSI to assist our agency with Cybercrime investigations. These partnerships demonstrate our commitment to public safety and effective law enforcement cooperation.

I would be happy to arrange a meeting with you to answer any questions you may have. Please let me know your availability, and we will coordinate a convenient time.

Thank you once again for your inquiry.

Take care,

~Col. Reeves

Colonel Sean Reeves

Chief of Police

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**From:** Michael Pruitt <[mpruitt@albemarle.org](mailto:mpruitt@albemarle.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 11:54 AM

**To:** Sean Reeves <[reevess@albemarle.org](mailto:reevess@albemarle.org)>

**Cc:** Trevor Henry <[thenry@albemarle.org](mailto:thenry@albemarle.org)>; Jeff Richardson <[jrichardson3@albemarle.org](mailto:jrichardson3@albemarle.org)>

**Subject:** Questions re: ACPD and Immigration Enforcement

Col. Reeves,

Following the election and the President-elect's planned emphasis on deportation and immigration enforcement, I'd like to get a better handle on what role Albemarle County police can and do play in immigration enforcement. I have a general understanding that at points in the past, especially under the Obama administration, federal enforcement agencies worked very closely with local law enforcement to identify immigrants illegally in the country, but I don't know what this kind of collaboration actually looked

like. Would either you or one of your officers who's well positioned to speak on this be willing to sit down with me in the coming weeks to help me better understand our role in immigration enforcement? Thanks.

Very respectfully,

Mike Pruitt

*he/his*

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

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