

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2025

Robert Danley
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Acting Assistant Commissioner Danley:

We write to request that the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) act swiftly to ensure all U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) law enforcement officers assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) wear and activate body-worn cameras (BWCs) when carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations in Illinois, in compliance with agency policy and a lawful order from a Federal judge.

CBP guidance highlights the indispensable role BWC footage plays in promoting accountability and transparency around enforcement encounters, especially in use of force incidents. Under CBP Directive 4320-030B, *Incident-Driven Video Recording System Directive*, Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and Air and Marine agents are instructed to record enforcement encounters at their start or as soon as possible, except when doing so may jeopardize their safety, and deactivate their BWC once their involvement in an enforcement encounter has concluded.¹ Further, a Federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois issued an updated order on October 16, 2025, requiring that all agents working under Operation Midway Blitz wear and activate their BWCs during law enforcement activities in Chicago. By complying with this agency directive and this court order while conducting civil immigration enforcement in the interior of the United States—outside of the scope of CBP’s mission—CBP agents and officers will promote the safety of Federal law enforcement officers and community members. Enhancing public trust around civil immigration enforcement activities in Illinois is particularly important following ICE’s launch of Operation Midway Blitz and the increasing participation of CBP in related enforcement actions.

Since the launch of this operation, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) public statements describing civil enforcement actions have proven misleading at best, following the emergence of additional facts and evidence. For example, in describing an incident on October 4, 2025, in which two individuals allegedly rammed a DHS vehicle in the Brighton Park neighborhood of

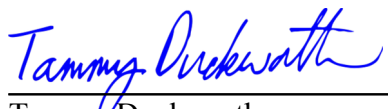
¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP Directive 4320-030B, *Incident-Driven Video Recording System Directive*, <https://www.cbp.gov/document/directives/cbp-directive-4320-030b-incident-driven-video-recording-system>.

Chicago resulting in the shooting of one of the suspects, DHS repeatedly emphasized that the injured individual possessed a firearm²³, implying that the agent's lethal use of force was justified. However, in the subsequent criminal complaint, no mention of the firearm appeared.⁴ It was later disclosed that the individual possessed a Firearm Owners ID, legally purchased the firearm in question, and had a concealed carry permit; and during the incident, the firearm was concealed in a bag and never removed, let alone pointed, at an agent.⁵ While all three Border Patrol agents involved in the incident were equipped with BWCs, only one activated their camera ahead of the incident.⁶

Regular use of BWCs provides an extra layer of safety for both law enforcement officers and the public they serve and helps to increase trust between the two. Despite that, CBP has yet to provide the public or Congress with information about Border Patrol agents' rate of activation of BWCs at other enforcement operations involving U.S. Border Patrol in Chicago, including a middle-of-the-night raid at an apartment complex in South Shore on September 30, 2025, which resulted in the indiscriminate temporary detention of U.S. citizens.⁷ Such incidents underscore the importance of BWC footage, which plays a vital role in promoting responsible law enforcement tactics and verifying DHS accounts against facts on the ground and, ultimately, is in the best interest of agents, officials and individuals involved in use of force incidents.

We urge you to ensure that all CBP officers and agents engaged in civil immigration enforcement operations in Illinois and across the nation wear and activate BWCs and that the agency expeditiously complies with CBP Directive 4320-030B and the terms of the district court's order.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, UPDATE: DHS deploys special operations after multiple violent attacks on federal law enforcement by domestic terrorists in Chicago, October 4, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/04/update-dhs-deploys-special-operations-after-multiple-violent-attacks-federal-law>.

³ Noem, Kristi (@Sec_Noem). "Today in Chicago, members of our brave law enforcement were attacked—rammed and boxed in by ten vehicles, including an attacker with a semi-automatic weapon. I am deploying more special," X, October 4, 2025, 3:09 pm, https://x.com/sec_noem/status/1974552450502726018?s=46.

⁴ United States v. Martinez and Ruiz, No. 1:25-cr-00636 (N. D. Ill.), Criminal Complaint.

⁵ David Struett and Kade Heather, "Attorney for Woman Shot by Border Patrol Claims Agent Said, 'do Something B----' before Shooting," Chicago Sun-Times, October 7, 2025, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2025/10/06/marimar-martinez-anthony-ian-santos-ruiz-border-patrol-shooting-brighton-park>.

⁶ United States v. Martinez and Ruiz, at 5.

⁷ Rebekah Riess and Bill Kirkos, "37 People Arrested and American Kids Separated from Parents after Ice Raid at Chicago Apartments," CNN, October 3, 2025, <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/10/03/us/chicago-apartment-ice-raid>.