



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Beyer:

This responds to your August 19, 2026, letter to the Department of Justice (Department) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requesting an investigation into alleged conduct of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents during an enforcement operation in the Bailey's Crossroads neighborhood of Falls Church, Virginia on August 10, 2026.

It is the Department's policy to value and preserve human life.¹ Officers may use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively gain control of an incident, while protecting the safety of the officer and others.² Officers may use force only when no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist and may use only the level of force that a reasonable officer on the scene would use under the same or similar circumstances.³ Officers are trained to employ de-escalation techniques where they would serve to secure the safety of the officer and the public.⁴ Officers are also trained to prevent or stop, as appropriate, other officers from engaging in uses of excessive force that violate the Constitution, other federal laws, or Department policies.⁵

We appreciate the benefit of having your views on this matter. The information you have provided may be shared, as appropriate, with others in the Department for their review.⁶ Longstanding Department policy and practice, however, prevents us from commenting on the existence of investigations.⁷

¹ U.S. Dep't of Just., Just. Manual §1-16.000 (U.S. Dep't of Just. Policy on Use of Force).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ U.S. Dep't of Just., Just. Manual §1-16.300 (De-Escalation).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *See, e.g.*, U.S. Dep't of Just., Just. Manual § 9-27.000 (outlining the Principles of Federal Prosecution).

⁷ *See* U.S. Dep't of Just., Just. Manual § 1-7.410 (comments on requests for investigation).

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Davis
Assistant Attorney General

cc:

The Honorable Suhas Subramanyam
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James R. Walkinshaw
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515