

United States Senate

July 16, 2026

David Wesling
Boston Acting Field Office Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Enforcement and Removal Operations
Boston Field Office
1000 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

Dear Acting Director Wesling:

We are profoundly alarmed by the killing of Joan Sebastian Guerrero, a 26-year-old man shot dead by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in Biddeford, Maine earlier this week. This is the second fatal shooting by ICE in less than a week, and it follows a string of other tragic and preventable deaths at the hands of ICE agents in recent months. Given the Burlington Field Office's direct jurisdiction over enforcement operations in Maine and New England, we write to demand a full, transparent, and independent accounting of this killing. We also demand immediate answers about your office's involvement in this incident and the operational failures that led to the death of yet another individual at the hands of ICE.

On the morning of July 13, 2026, an ICE agent fatally shot Mr. Guerrero, a Colombian national, on a residential street in Biddeford.¹ Initial reports indicate the officer fired multiple rounds into Mr. Guerrero's vehicle.² Witnesses described multiple bullet holes in Mr. Guerrero's car windshield and reported seeing him lying in a pool of blood for multiple hours after the shooting.³ Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Markwayne Mullin informed Maine Senator Angus King that none of the officers was wearing body cameras and that Mr. Guerrero was not the intended target of the enforcement operation, reversing his earlier claim that Mr. Guerrero had been the target.⁴ DHS has claimed that the victim "weaponized" his vehicle and that the officer shot in fear for public safety, echoing similar justifications by the Department in past encounters.⁵ But there is no video evidence supporting this account, and in prior cases similar justifications have appeared spurious.

¹ Madaleine Rubin, *What We Know About the ICE Shooting in Maine*, N.Y. Times (July 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/13/us/ice-shooting-maine-guerrero.html>.

² Ted Hesson et al., *ICE officer shoots and kills man in Maine, prompting state investigation*, Wash. Post (July 13, 2026), https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/07/13/federal-officers-involved-fatal-shooting-biddeford-maine-governor-says/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter.

³ Bryan Hecht, *Driver fatally shot by ICE in Biddeford was 'not the target,' of deportation investigation, King's office says*, Boston Globe (July 14, 2026), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/07/14/metro/maine-ice-shooting-man-identified/>.

⁴ Hesson, *supra* note 2.

⁵ Rubin, *supra* note 1; Hesson, *supra* note 2.

Immigration advocates have also confirmed that Mr. Guerrero, a husband and father of a three-year-old daughter, had a Social Security number and work authorization, was the sole provider for his family, and was attending immigration court proceedings.⁶ Family and neighbors have also described Mr. Guerrero as hardworking and devoted to his family, working as a food delivery driver and at a veterinary clinic.⁷

This tragic killing follows closely on the heels of the July 7 fatal shooting of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a 52-year-old Mexican national, in Houston after a traffic stop.⁸ ICE alleged that Mr. Salgado Araujo had “weaponized his vehicle” during a targeted operation, forcing the agent to shoot in self-defense.⁹ But in this case too, the government has failed to present evidence to support this account.¹⁰ Meanwhile, eyewitnesses and video footage appear to contradict ICE’s narrative.¹¹ And, as in Mr. Guerrero’s case, DHS confirmed that Mr. Salgado Araujo was not the target of the operation and that agents were not wearing body cameras.¹²

The killings of both Mr. Guerrero and Mr. Araujo reflect a disturbing pattern: warrantless, aggressive, and indiscriminate ICE enforcement operations ending in the loss of life. Beyond these tragedies, numerous documented incidents point to a broader and deeply troubling pattern of excessive force by ICE agents across the country. Since last year, federal agents have fired on more than 20 people, many of whom were shot in their vehicles, as part of immigration crackdowns.¹³ Six people, including three U.S. citizens, have died in these incidents.¹⁴ In many cases, video evidence or eyewitness accounts have undermined the accounts initially provided by federal officials. The high-profile fatal shootings in Minneapolis during Operation Metro Surge of Renée Good and Alex Pretti in January 2026 underscored a troubling pattern of mendacity in the Trump administration’s explanations. These cases, taken together, illustrate that the Biddeford shooting was not an aberration but part of a broader, escalating pattern of force that demands immediate scrutiny and reform.

In the last few days, ICE has sharply escalated enforcement activity nationwide. Over a five-day span in late June, ICE agents made more than 10,000 arrests nationwide, roughly 2,000 per day, following the White House’s request for increased arrests.¹⁵ In Massachusetts, this surge has hit hard: ICE has been detaining people at ICE check-ins and biometrics appointments, in the

⁶ Hesson, *supra* note 2.

⁷ Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio et al., *Man killed by ICE agent was from Colombia and moved to Maine, worked as food delivery driver to support wife and daughter*, Boston Globe (July 14, 2026), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/07/14/metro/ice-shooting-victim-colombia/>.

⁸ Orlando Mayorquín et al., *Witnesses Say ICE Fired Fatal Shot Into Open Passenger Window in Houston*, N.Y. Times (July 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/13/us/houston-ice-shooting-video-witnesses.html>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Jazmine Ulloa et al., *ICE Killing in Houston Puts Focus on Surge in Immigration Arrests*, N.Y. Times (July 10, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/10/us/ice-immigration-arrests-surge.html>.

¹³ Allison McCann, *At Least 21 People Have Been Shot at by Federal Immigration Agents Since Last Year*, N.Y. Times (July 8, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/08/us/immigration-agent-shootings-vehicles.html>.

¹⁴ *See Id.*

¹⁵ Hamed Aleaziz, *Immigrant Arrests Surge to 10,000 in 5 Days as ICE Clamps Down*, N.Y. Times (July 1, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/01/us/politics/ice-immigrant-arrests-surge.html>.

street and at traffic stops, triggering alarm from immigrant advocates who report increased detentions of individuals, including many without criminal history.¹⁶ Meanwhile, in Maine, ICE activity has continued even after the January enforcement surge which ICE dubbed “Operation Catch of the Day.”¹⁷ The incursion of ICE into our cities and the drastic uptick in enforcement have heightened the risk of volatile and harmful encounters, making our communities less safe.

ICE’s conduct in New England continues to demand accountability. We expect written answers to the following questions by Thursday, July 30, 2026.

1. What was the Burlington Field Office’s specific role in planning, overseeing, or authorizing the Biddeford operation?
2. Why was Mr. Guerrero, who was not the target of the warrant, engaged with lethal force?
3. What identification protocols failed, and how was the wrong individual pursued?
4. What evidence supports DHS’s claim that the ICE officer fired due to fear for public safety? What evidence supports DHS’s claim that Mr. Guerrero weaponized his vehicle against the ICE officers?
5. Why were the ICE officers in the Biddeford operation not equipped with body-worn cameras? What is the current timeline for full body-camera deployment at the Burlington Field Office?
6. Has the ICE officer who shot Mr. Guerrero been involved in any prior use-of-force incidents? What is the status of his administrative leave and any internal review of his actions?
7. Please provide any surveillance, radio logs, internal communications, or other materials that document the Biddeford operation?
8. What are the current use-of-force policies for vehicle stops? Were these policies followed in the Biddeford shooting?
9. Did the ICE officers involved in the Biddeford shooting receive any training with respect to vehicle stops? What kind of training does the Boston Field Office generally provide ICE officers regarding vehicle stops?
10. What reforms does the Burlington Field Office plan to implement to prevent fatal shootings by its ICE officers?
11. What communications occurred between the Boston Field Office and DHS headquarters regarding the pace and intensity of enforcement operations in New England in the weeks before the shooting, given the reported nationwide arrest surge?

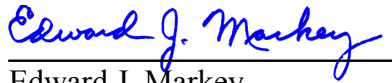
DHS is allowing ICE agents to shoot into occupied vehicles and operate without body cameras while offering self-serving agency statements before independent investigators complete

¹⁶ Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio, *ICE is logging more arrests than ever in Mass. and beyond*, Boston Globe (July 10, 2026), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/07/10/newsletters/massachusetts-ice-immigration-detention/>; Marcela García, *Shootings in Maine and Texas make clear: The new ICE surge is here*, Boston Globe (July 13, 2026), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/07/13/opinion/maine-shooting-ice-dhs-immigration-surge/>.

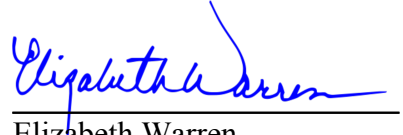
¹⁷ Jacey Fortin et al., *ICE Agent Kills Person in Vehicle in Maine, Homeland Security Says*, N.Y. Times (July 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/13/us/biddeford-maine-ice-shooting.html>.

their work. This moment demands transparency, accountability, and a halt to this escalating pattern of lethal enforcement.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator