

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 30, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

I write to express my deep concern with the recent actions of Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell and his efforts to obstruct the work of the Trump administration to secure our border, deport criminal illegal aliens, and Make America Safe Again. After a joint operation conducted by the Tennessee Highway Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) led to the arrests of nearly 200 illegal immigrants in Nashville,¹ Mayor O'Connell signed an executive order requiring city departments—including local law enforcement—to report all communications they have with federal immigration authorities.² The intent of this executive order is clear: obstruct ICE operations in Nashville and tip off criminal illegal aliens to avoid apprehension and detention.

But the Mayor did not stop there. This week, O'Connell publicly released the names of multiple Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and ICE agents, along with their immigration enforcement activities³ By doxxing these hard-working law enforcement officers who are working to make the Nashville community safe, the mayor has placed them directly in harm's way. Specifically, he has revealed the names of these brave men and women to the criminal members of Tren de Aragua, MS-13, and other violent gangs. At a time when ICE officers have faced a 413% increase in assaults, demonizing these brave law enforcement officers will not be tolerated.

That is why I am urging you to launch a formal investigation into Mayor O'Connell's obstruction of immigration enforcement operations in Nashville. Specifically, I respectfully request that you examine:

1. Whether Mayor O'Connell has willfully obstructed ICE or HSI enforcement operations in the Nashville area;

¹ Alicia Patton, *DHS: 196 Arrested in Nashville ICE Operations, 5 Names Released*, WKRN (May 13, 2025, 2:30 PM) <https://www.wkrn.com/news/local-news/nashville/dhs-196-arrested-in-nashville-ice-operations-5-names-released/>.

² See Executive Order 30, *Communications Between Federal Immigration Authorities and the Metropolitan Government*, accessed at <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/metro-clerk/legal-resources/executive-orders/mayor-freddie-oconnell/fo030>.

³ Karen Aguilar, *Nashville Mayor Faces Scrutiny After Releasing ICE Information, Federal Agents' Names*, Fox17, (May 28, 2025, 10:30 PM) <https://fox17.com/news/local/nashville-mayor-freddie-oconnell-makes-information-on-the-ice-interactions-with-mnnpd-and>.

2. Whether Mayor O'Connell has aided and abetted, or facilitated in any way, illegal immigration or the evasion of detection from federal immigration authorities; and
3. Whether Mayor O'Connell's recent actions have, in any way, contributed to Nashville's status as a sanctuary city.⁴

President Trump and his administration are already hard at work deporting criminal illegal aliens and making our communities safe again, and an investigation into the mayor's conduct would be a tremendous step forward in holding rogue mayors and local officials to account. The people of Tennessee deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

⁴ It is important to note that Tennessee law explicitly prohibits any locality from adopting sanctuary city policies that hinder cooperation with federal immigration operations. *See* TENN. CODE ANN. § 7-68-103 (2024).