



July 13, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee,

President Joe Biden has [nominated](#) Sheriff Ed Gonzalez of Harris County, TX to serve as the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A co-chair of the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force (LEITF), Sheriff Gonzalez is a proven leader on issues at the intersection of law enforcement and immigration. As his peers and fellow LEITF members, we believe he will prioritize both public safety and the dignity of immigrants as the Director of ICE.

[Sheriff Gonzalez](#) was elected Sheriff of Harris County – Texas’ largest county and the United States’ third largest county by population – in November 2016. Prior to this, Sheriff Gonzalez served for 18 years in the Houston Police Department and six years on Houston’s City Council, chairing the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. We believe these diverse experiences will inform Sheriff Gonzalez’s leadership at ICE, and ensure that public safety, community trust, collaboration with local and state law enforcement, and humane treatment of immigrants are prioritized by ICE under the Biden administration.

As a law enforcement leader, Sheriff Gonzalez has supported smarter, targeted enforcement priorities that respect local law enforcement and uphold community trust. For example, he worked with other Texas sheriffs to raise concerns about state legislation ([SB.4](#)) that would require local law enforcement to divert scarce resources to carry out certain immigration enforcement activities that traditionally have been the responsibility of the federal government.

In addition to championing smarter enforcement priorities, Sheriff Gonzalez has been an outspoken advocate for compassionate treatment of immigrants as an LEITF member. He joined a group of Texas law enforcement leaders in [denouncing](#) President Trump’s family separation policy. He is also an advocate for Dreamers and has urged Congress to find bipartisan solutions to protect DACA recipients and provide pathways to citizenship. In a May 2018 [press statement](#), he stated:

Congress owes all Americans a bipartisan, permanent solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). A solution for Dreamers is also a solution for American workers, businesses, law enforcement, churches, our military, and entire communities. Dreamers are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends. It is past time for our Congress to rise above the political rhetoric and demonstrate true leadership on this urgent issue.

We believe Sheriff Gonzalez would lead ICE with acute knowledge of local law enforcement realities and compassion for vulnerable immigrants. Confirming Sheriff Gonzalez will ensure



that ICE prioritizes enforcement against those who pose public safety or national security threats, and that local law enforcement agencies can focus their limited resources on community safety.

We believe Sheriff Gonzalez's pragmatic and sensible leadership would be an asset to ICE. We support Sheriff Gonzalez's nomination and urge that he be confirmed promptly.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Margaret Mims, LEITF Co-Chair  
Fresno County, CA

Chief Steve Stahl, Retired  
Maricopa, AZ

Chief Orlando Rolón, LEITF Co-Chair  
Orlando, FL

Chief Roberto Villasenor, Retired  
Tucson AZ

Chief Art Acevedo, LEITF Co-Chair  
Miami, FL

Chief Bill Scott  
San Francisco, CA

Executive Director Dwayne Crawford  
National Organization of Black Law  
Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Chief David Valentin  
Santa Ana, CA

Former National President Clarence Cox  
National Organization of Black Law  
Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Chief Robert Contee  
Washington, DC

Chief Ernest Finley  
Montgomery, AL

Interim Chief Sylvia Moir  
Napa, CA

Lieutenant Andy Norris, Retired  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Sheriff John Mina  
Orange County, FL

Chief Ramon Batista, Retired  
Mesa, AZ

Chief Roy W. Minter Jr.  
Savannah, GA

Chief Roy Bermudez  
Nogales, AZ

Chief Chris Cole  
Storm Lake, IA

Chief Jack Harris, Retired  
Phoenix, AZ

Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald  
Story County, IA

Chief Mike Soelberg  
Gilbert, AZ

Chief Wayne Jerman  
Cedar Rapids, IA



## LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

Director of Public Safety Mark Prosser,  
Retired  
Storm Lake, IA

Sheriff Kevin Schneider  
Polk County, IA

Chief Mike Tupper  
Marshalltown, IA

Chief Craig Kingsbury  
Twin Falls, ID

Sheriff John Idleburg  
Lake County, IL

Chief Michael Diekhoff  
Bloomington, IN

Chief Scott Ruszkowski  
South Bend, IN

Chief Ron Teachman, Retired  
South Bend, IN

Chief Gordon Ramsay  
Wichita, KS

Chief Erika Shields  
Louisville, KY

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian  
Middlesex County, MA

Chief Brian Kyes  
Chelsea, MA

Chief Marcus Jones  
Montgomery County, MD

Chief J. Thomas Manger, Retired  
Montgomery County, MD

Sheriff Jerry Clayton  
Washtenaw County, MI

Chief Ron Haddad  
Dearborn, MI

Chief Christopher C. Blue  
Chapel Hill, NC

Sheriff Garry McFadden  
Mecklenburg County, NC

Sheriff Eli Rivera  
Cheshire County, NH

Chief Richard Biehl  
Dayton, OH

Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare  
Providence, RI

Chief William Holbrook  
Columbia, SC

Sheriff Leon Lott  
Richland County, SC

Chief Fred Fletcher, Retired  
Chattanooga, TN

Sheriff Marian Brown  
Dallas County, TX

Chief Frank Dixon  
Denton, TX

Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra  
Hidalgo County, TX

Chief Andy Harvey  
Pharr, TX



Sheriff Sally Hernandez  
Travis County, TX

Chief Mike Markle  
Corpus Christi, TX

Chief Neil Noakes  
Fort Worth, TX

Chief Claudio Treviño, Jr.  
Laredo, TX

Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Retired  
Dallas County, TX

Chief Mike Brown  
Salt Lake City, UT

Retired Chief/FBI National Executive  
Institute Associates President Chris Burbank  
Salt Lake City, UT

Captain Sean Casey  
Alexandria, VA

Chief Peter Newsham  
Prince William County, VA

Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht  
King County, WA

Sheriff David J. Mahoney, Retired  
Dane County, WI

\*Signatures updated as of July 13, 12 pm ET\*