

July 15, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

Sheriff Keybo Taylor  
Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office  
2900 University Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
[Keybo.Taylor@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Keybo.Taylor@gwinnettcounty.com)

**RE: Request for clarification and public engagement regarding HB 1105 implementation, the detention of Mario Guevara, and cooperation with ICE/federal agents**

Sheriff Taylor,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to you on behalf of the communities we serve and advocate for in Gwinnett County to request transparency, clarity, and engagement on immigration policy enforcement practices in our county.

As you know, Gwinnett is Georgia's most diverse county, and more than 25% of Gwinnettians were born outside of the United States. As such, given recent expansion of immigration enforcement practices, as well as changes in federal and state law, many of your constituents (and their families) are living with a grave sense of fear and confusion. The opaque handling of Mario Guevara's arrest, charges, and detention has stirred new questions around due process, civil rights, and how GCSO will deal with similar cases across various immigrant communities. Your office's policies and practices profoundly affect our neighbors and community members. It is your responsibility to build and maintain meaningful trust between your office and the communities you serve. We believe the best way to build that trust as an elected official is to consistently provide transparency, clarity, and engagement with your constituents.

In that spirit, we are seeking a clear, public response to the following questions:

1. How does your office interpret its obligations under 2024's HB 1105 and what specific procedures or protocols have been implemented since the bill's enactment?
  - a. During routine law enforcement activity, in what cases are people asked to present proof of immigration status? In particular, how is this determination made in situations involving traffic violations or when individuals have not committed any crimes themselves but are merely present in the company of someone suspected of a crime?
  - b. How long are people given to provide proof of immigration status during routine law enforcement stops?
  - c. In your office, what are the immigration statuses that your team considers "lawfully present" in the country?

- d. Once people are taken to jail, what is the process for determining whether a person is lawfully present in the United States? Who is tasked with contacting DHS, specifically the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), when there is suspicion or lack of proof that the person is not lawfully present in the United States, and at what point is this individual expected to make contact?
  - e. What are GCSO's policies and procedures when an individual is eligible for release (for example, on bond) but GCSO has contacted LESC and, after 48 hours since the person's arrival, is still awaiting a response on the individual's presence in the United States? Are there, or have there been, any instances of individuals remaining in detention beyond 48 hours since arrival solely due to an inability to contact or a delay in contacting LESC?
  - f. If U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) places a detainer request on a person, and if ICE arrives within 48 hours of GCSO receiving the request, do you require an arrest warrant before releasing the detainee into ICE's custody? If so, do you specifically require a judicial warrant?
  - g. If ICE places a detainer request on a person, but does not arrive within 48 hours of your receipt of such a request, do you keep the person in your custody even if the person posted bond after receipt of the request?
  - h. Since HB 1105 was signed into law, how many people has your office released into ICE custody?
  - i. Notwithstanding that there is no formal written agreement between GCSO and ICE, in what circumstances does GCSO cooperate with ICE? In particular:
    - i. Outside of the jail setting and even before GCSO communicates with LESC about any particular person, does ICE communicate with GCSO about forthcoming or proposed ICE arrest operations in Gwinnett?
    - ii. Outside of the jail setting, does GCSO communicate with ICE about GCSO operations, including, but not limited to, communicating with ICE to verify status (pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-5-100 (c)(4)) or when status has been verified (pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-5-100(e))?
2. Please explain your or your staff's involvement in the specific case of Mario Guevara, a journalist, and the charges your office issued against him. Was this in coordination with any federal agency?
- a. Why were charges presented a month after the incident?
  - b. What was the pathway of custody between Dekalb, Gwinnett and the Federal government in the case of Mr. Guevara?

In addition to answering these questions, we also urge you to commit to hosting two public town halls in different areas of Gwinnett before the beginning of the school year on August 4, 2025 so that residents can hear directly from you as their sheriff. As organizations already doing work in the community, we can assist in the planning and execution of these town halls so that they are informative and accessible.

Recent events have thrust the actions of your office into statewide and national discussions. This is particularly concerning in light of your office's promises to respect the civil and human rights of immigrant communities in your jurisdiction by ending 287(g) in Gwinnett County.<sup>1</sup> It is critical that the sheriff of a county as diverse as ours not only respond to inquiries from our organizations, but also actively demonstrate a proactive approach to the urgency of this moment and the well-being of *every* Gwinnettian.

**We respectfully request a written response within 10 days of receipt of this letter and invite you to provide dates on which you will be available to conduct town halls.**

We look forward to your timely response and to working with you to ensure Gwinnett County is a place where all residents can feel safe.

Sincerely,

Anjali Nair, Deputy Director  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta

Berenice Rodriguez, State Director  
CASA Georgia

Kyle Gomez-Leineweber, Policy Director  
Common Cause GA

Jerry Gonzalez, CEO  
GALEO Impact Fund

Gilda (Gigi) Pedraza, Executive Director  
Latino Community Fund (LCF Georgia)

Leslie Palomino, Georgia State Director  
Poder Latinx

---

<sup>1</sup>**Vashi, Sonam.** "How Immigrant Communities Beat Back ICE and Helped Flip Georgia." *The Appeal* (Political Report), Dec. 10, 2020. <https://theappeal.org/politicalreport/georgia-activism-immigration/>