

A HEARING WITH SANCTUARY CITY MAYORS

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

MARCH 5, 2025

Serial No. 119-11

Printed for the use of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Available on: *govinfo.gov*,
oversight.house.gov or
docs.house.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

59-603 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2025

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JAMES COMER, Kentucky, Chairman

JIM JORDAN, Ohio	GERALD E. CONNOLLY, Virginia, <i>Ranking</i>
MIKE TURNER, Ohio	<i>Minority Member</i>
PAUL GOSAR, Arizona	ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, District of
VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina	Columbia
GLENN GROTHMAN, Wisconsin	STEPHEN F. LYNCH, Massachusetts
MICHAEL CLOUD, Texas	RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, Illinois
GARY PALMER, Alabama	RO KHANNA, California
CLAY HIGGINS, Louisiana	KWEISI MFUME, Maryland
PETE SESSIONS, Texas	SHONTEL BROWN, Ohio
ANDY BIGGS, Arizona	MELANIE STANSBURY, New Mexico
NANCY MACE, South Carolina	ROBERT GARCIA, California
PAT FALLON, Texas	MAXWELL FROST, Florida
BYRON DONALDS, Florida	SUMMER LEE, Pennsylvania
SCOTT PERRY, Pennsylvania	GREG CASAR, Texas
WILLIAM TIMMONS, South Carolina	JASMINE CROCKETT, Texas
TIM BURCHETT, Tennessee	EMILY RANDALL, Washington
MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, Georgia	SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM, Virginia
LAUREN BOEBERT, Colorado	YASSAMIN ANSARI, Arizona
ANNA PAULINA LUNA, Florida	WESLEY BELL, Missouri
NICK LANGWORTHY, New York	LATEEFAH SIMON, California
ERIC BURLISON, Missouri	DAVE MIN, California
ELI CRANE, Arizona	AYANNA PRESSLEY, Massachusetts
BRIAN JACK, Georgia	RASHIDA TLAIB, Michigan
JOHN MCGUIRE, Virginia	
BRANDON GILL, Texas	

MARK MARIN, Staff Director
JAMES RUST, Deputy Staff Director
MITCH BENZINE, General Counsel
ALEX RANKIN, Counsel
ALEX PHARES, Professional Staff Member
BILLY GRANT, Professional Staff Member
MALLORY COGAR, Deputy Director of Operations and Chief Clerk

CONTACT NUMBER: 202-225-5074

JAMIE SMITH, Minority Staff Director

CONTACT NUMBER: 202-225-5051

C O N T E N T S

	Page
Hearing held on March 5, 2025	1

WITNESSES

The Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor, City of New York	
Oral Statement	6
The Honorable Mike Johnston, Mayor, City and County of Denver	
Oral Statement	7
The Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, City of Chicago	
Oral Statement	9
The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor, City of Boston	
Oral Statement	10
Mr. David J. Bier (Minority Witness), Director of Immigration Studies, Cato Institute	
Oral Statement	12
<i>Written opening statements and bios are available on the U.S. House of Representatives Document Repository at: docs.house.gov.</i>	

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

- * Report, Cato Institute, “President Obama: Deporter-In-Chief”; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, LEAP, Anti-Sanctuary Bill Opposition Letter; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, AFL-CIO, H.R. 32; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, LEITF, H.R. 32; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, NIJC; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, NILC; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, Jewish organizations, No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Statement for the Record, Interfaith letter, Supporting Jurisdictions that Welcome Immigrants; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Report, CAP, “Trump’s Rash Immigration Actions Place Cruelty and Spectacle Above Security”; submitted by Rep. Ansari.
- * Article, *Gazette*, “\$2M to Defend Denver, City Hires Law Firm Before Johnston’s Sanctuary City Hearing”; submitted by Rep. Boebert.
- * Article, *Gazette*, “Denver Mayor Offloads Immigrants on Aurora”; submitted by Rep. Boebert.

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

- * Article, 9News, “Denver passes immigration ordinance restricting city cooperation with ICE”; submitted by Rep. Boebert.
- * Article, 9News, “Denver, Aurora Mayors say Venezuelan gang coverage is exaggerated”; submitted by Rep. Boebert.
- * Newcomers Playbook: A Guide To Welcoming Newcomers Into Your City, Denver, April 2024; submitted by Rep. Boebert.
- * Press Deck—City and County of Denver 2025 Proposed Budget; submitted by Rep. Boebert.
- * Report, Cato Institute, “President Obama: Deporter-In-Chief”; submitted by Rep. Cloud.
- * Article, NPR, “Criminal records of Jan. 6 rioters pardoned by Trump include rape, domestic violence”; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Article, *Associated Press*, “Trump is putting mass deportations at the heart of his campaign”; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Article, BBC, “Trump vows to use U.S. military for mass deportations”; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * Letter, February 21, 2025, from Reps. Connolly, Lee, Raskin, and McBath, to Attorney General Pamela Bondi, re: Corruption; submitted by Rep. Connolly.
- * X Post, ICE Denver, “Suspected TdA Gang Member Released from Denver Co Jail”; submitted by Rep. Crank.
- * Article, *The Economist*, “How Boston became the safest big city in America”; submitted by Rep. Crockett.
- * Article, *Wired*, “U.S. Funding Cuts Are Helping Criminals Get Away With Child Abuse and Human Trafficking”; submitted by Rep. Crockett.
- * Report, InsightCrime, “2024 Homicide Round-Up”; submitted by Rep. Crockett.
- * Report, *USAFacts.org*, “Which States Rely the Most on Federal Aid” submitted by Rep. Crockett.
- * Report, Chicago Office of the Inspector General, “Advisory Concerning Gifts Accepted on Behalf of the City”; submitted by Rep. Gill.
- * 8 U.S. Code § 1324; submitted by Rep. Greene.
- * Article, *NewsNationNow*, “Chicago police reminded they can’t cooperate with mass deportation raids”; submitted by Rep. Jack.
- * Article, CBS, “Denver Mayor Johnston rebukes Congressional Republicans after Committee request to testify”; submitted by Rep. Luna.
- * Boston Trust Act 2019; submitted by Rep. Luna.
- * Letter, Hagan Scotten Resignation; submitted by Rep. Ocasio-Cortez.
- * Letter, Resignation of Danielle Sassoon; submitted by Rep. Ocasio-Cortez.
- * Article, *USA Today*, “DHS agents shift to deportation instead of trafficking”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Article, NPR, “Fearful amid ICE crackdowns, some immigrants are skipping health care”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Article, *Hechinger Report*, “Parents Pull Kids from Childcare Due To Immigration Fears”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Article, *Boston Globe*, “Trump’s Immigration Policies Prompt Some Children to Skip School”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Article, CNN, “11-Year-Old Died by Suicide After Bullying Over Immigration Status”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

- * Report, Joint Economic Committee, “Mass Deportations Would Deliver a Catastrophic Blow to the U.S. Economy”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Report, CATO, “Illegal Immigration and Crime in Texas”; submitted by Rep. Pressley.
- * Report, American Immigration Council, “Mass Deportation: Devastating Costs to America, Its Budget and Economy”; submitted by Reps. Pressley and Ansari.
- * Article, *New York Times*, “Trump Administration Is Frustrated Over Pace of Deportations”; submitted by Rep. Randall.
- * Article, *Northwestern Now*, “Immigrants are significantly less likely to commit crimes than the U.S.-born”; submitted by Rep. Stansbury.
- * Article, NPR, “Immigrants less likely to commit crimes than U.S.-born”; submitted by Rep. Stansbury.
- * Article, *Stanford*, “The mythical tie between immigration and crime”; submitted by Rep. Stansbury.
- * Article, *Scientific American*, “Undocumented Immigrants Half as Likely to Be Arrested for Violent Crimes as U.S.”; submitted by Rep. Stansbury.

The documents listed are available at: docs.house.gov.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- * Questions for the Record: to Mayor Johnston; submitted by Rep. Mace.
- * Questions for the Record: to Mayor Wu; submitted by Rep. Mace.
- * Questions for the Record: to Mayor Adams; submitted by Rep. Mace.
- * Questions for the Record: to Mayor Johnson; submitted by Rep. Mace.

These documents were submitted after the hearing, and may be available upon request.

A HEARING WITH SANCTUARY CITY MAYORS

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:03 a.m., in room HVC-210, Capitol Visitor Center, Hon. James Comer (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Comer, Jordan, Turner, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Cloud, Palmer, Higgins, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, Fallon, Donalds, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, Boebert, Luna, Langworthy, Burlison, Crane, Jack, McGuire, Gill, Connolly, Norton, Lynch, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Brown, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Randall, Subramanyam, Ansari, Bell, Simon, Min, Pressley, and Tlaib.

Also present: LaHood, Evans, Crank, Hurd, Ocasio-Cortez, Gillen, and Davis.

Chairman COMER. The hearing on the Committee of Oversight and Government Reform will come to order. I want to welcome everyone here today.

Without objection, the Chair may declare a recess at any time.

I now recognize myself for the purpose of delivering an opening statement.

Good morning and welcome to today's full Committee hearing on sanctuary cities with the mayors of four American cities: Boston, New York, Chicago, and Denver. Over the past 4 years, the Biden Administration created the worst border crisis in American history. The Democrats said that President Biden did not have the power or the money to stop the flow of illegal aliens at the Southwest border. It turns out the only thing President Biden did not have was the willpower. In a few short weeks, President Trump has proved what we all know to be true. The Biden Administration could have stopped a crisis at any moment, if only they had the courage to enforce the law.

Since President Trump assumed office, illegal entries at the Southwest border have plummeted to a 94-percent drop in 1 month—94 percent. Under President Trump, the world knows that there are consequences for unlawful entry into the United States. The border crisis was not the result of climate change, a lack of resources, or a failure to grant amnesty. It was the result of the last Administration's deliberate choice. President Biden enacted policy starting on the day he assumed office to allow millions of unvetted,

illegal aliens to pour into the United States. Many of these illegal aliens have long rap sheets that include violent crimes. President Trump has an electoral mandate from the American people to deliver on his promises to secure the border and enforce the immigration laws of the United States, and he is delivering on this promise big time.

The mayors here today each lead so-called sanctuary cities. And let us be clear—these policies only create sanctuary for criminals. Sanctuary policies violate Federal immigration law by protecting criminal aliens at the expense of the American people. Sanctuary cities and states refuse to cooperate with Federal immigration enforcement efforts and harbor illegal aliens. They often actively work to stand in the way of President Trump's mission to protect the American people and restore integrity to the American immigration system and the rule of law. Sanctuary cities forbid their officials, including those in law enforcement and public safety roles, from sharing information about illegal aliens in their cities with the Federal Government or turning over criminals in their custody to ICE. As a result, sanctuary cities release criminal illegal aliens back onto the streets where they often go on to commit more crimes.

In Chicago, for example, an illegal alien who was recently arrested for killing a 63-year-old man had previously been arrested in Chicago for trying to lure a child. ICE lodged a detainer against a criminal alien, but Chicago authorities released him back onto the street because of the city's reckless sanctuary policy, and now an innocent man is dead because of Chicago's refusal to follow the law. These reckless sanctuary policies also force Federal immigration officers to go into local communities to apprehend criminal illegal aliens.

If sanctuary cities were to simply communicate and work with Federal immigration authorities, then Federal agents could arrest criminal illegal aliens in a secure environment, like a state or local jail. Instead, they have to risk their own safety and public safety by having to go into uncertain, dangerous circumstances just to make arrests. Sanctuary cities make us all less safe and are a public safety nightmare. That is why I launched an investigation into sanctuary cities and why these mayors are here today. We cannot let pro-criminal alien policies and obstructionist sanctuary cities continue to endanger American communities and the safety of Federal immigration enforcement officers.

Today, Mayors Wu, Johnson, Johnston, and Adams will be publicly accountable for their failure to follow the law and protect the American people. President Trump and his Administration are taking action against sanctuary cities, and Congress must follow not by allowing a single penny of Federal funding to go to cities and states that prioritize criminal aliens over the American people.

I now yield to Ranking Member Connolly for his opening statement.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every Member here today, Democrats and Republicans alike, agrees that violent criminals do not belong in our communities. We all want our cities to be safe and have zero tolerance for violent crime, irrespective of the status of the perpetrator. Where we disagree is that my Republican

colleagues prefer a selective application of the law to shield the President of the United States from accountability and this Administration from the rule of law itself. In America, we uphold the rule of law, independent from partisan politics without fear or favor.

Betraying those convictions, President Trump's Department of Justice has tried to force the conditional dismissal of very serious charges against one of our witnesses here today in exchange for that witness' total and complete submission to the radical immigration agenda being propounded by the Administration. And the DOJ has done so over the objections of a Republican acting U.S. Attorney whom President Trump appointed. Rather than enabling a flagrant corruptive quid pro quo, seven Federal prosecutors, seven, including Republicans, resigned. One of them, a former clerk to Chief Justice John Roberts of the Supreme Court, said that anyone in his position "would know that our laws and traditions do not allow using the prosecutorial power to influence other citizens, much less elected officials in this way." History is calling on us now to stand up for those laws and traditions. Doing so also demands an affirmation of state and local sovereignty in determining the most effective ways to keep residents safe in compliance with Federal law. To deny this sovereignty is an assault on the independence of every American city across the country.

Today, Republicans have hauled before us the mayors of four major American cities to frame them as lawless because those cities have some limits in how intrusively and aggressively their own officials can conduct Federal immigration operations and responsibilities. Let us be clear: the state and local laws that Republicans have issue with today are in full compliance with Federal law. They do not obstruct ICE from carrying out its duties, and they are backed by evidence demonstrating that they keep people safe and safer in counties with laws that do not honor extrajudicial civil detainees and had significantly lower levels of violent crime than counties that have them. Mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, and local leaders have made clear that the way to combat violent crime is allowing the local police to do their local job of ensuring public safety in their own communities as they account for it. Commandeering them to spend limited time and resources as Federal agents is a non-starter and can contribute to crime and non-cooperation in immigrant communities throughout the country.

At this year's Conservative Political Action Conference, Border Czar Tom Homan said he is "bringing hell" to the city of Boston until it complies with his demands. I do not know what that means. Boston is my hometown, and I am glad to welcome our mayor, Mayor Wu, and her 1-month-old baby here today, but I do not know that Boston welcomes Mr. Homan or anyone else bringing hell to the city.

The Republican crusade against local independence does not just undermine public safety in our communities. It is blatantly cruel, and I say, inhumane and un-American. Kenia Colindres, her husband, Wilson Rogelio Velasquez Cruz, and their three children came to the United States in 2022 seeking asylum, a legal category of immigration, after escaping violence in Honduras. Wilson was granted a 5-year work permit allowing him to work at a tire shop and to provide for his family here in the United States. Kenia said

that her husband had never been in trouble and was “a man of God.” On January 26, the family of five was in church when Wilson was lured out by an ICE agent waiting to arrest him. Despite having valid work permits, the Trump Administration refused to hear his appeal and is actively deporting him. Wilson was the sole breadwinner for his family. Now Kenia has to worry about how she is going to pay the bills and take care of her three children, on top of the fears that she and her children might be next.

Last week in El Monte, California, Xitlali, a woman who is battling bone cancer, tearfully watched as her mother, Yolanda, cried inconsolably as she was detained by ICE agents, who refused to even present the detention order. Yolanda was Xitlali’s sole caretaker in her struggle against cancer and has no criminal record, and now Xitlali is on her own.

ICE is also conducting massive raids in cities and towns that have led to the wrongful detention of U.S. citizens, including Native Americans and military veterans. One school district sent a letter to parents warning that ICE may board school buses and demand documents from children. Children are going to be afraid to go to school. One reportedly wrote a goodbye note to friends saying, “If ICE takes me, do not forget about me.” “If ICE takes me, do not forget about me,” from a child. Is that the country we want?

America needs immigration policies to keep everyone safe and make the country stronger, and allow us to grow and fill in the skill sets we do not have. If President Trump was serious about delivering those solutions, he would not be attacking the Constitution’s guarantee of citizenship to children born in the United States. To see our country through this period of darkness, we need leaders who will stand up for the rule of law and will champion public safety at the local level, and American families, whether they are immigrant families or native-born families, deserve due process, deserve respect, and deserve that Statue of Liberty that welcomes all comers. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Ranking Member yields back. I request unanimous consent that Representatives LaHood of Illinois, LaLota of New York, Crank of Colorado, Malliotakis of New York, Hurd of Colorado, Evans of Colorado, Van Duyne of Texas, Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Gillen of New York, and Davis of Illinois be waived onto today’s hearing for the purpose of asking questions.

Without objection, so ordered.

Before we introduce the witnesses, I recognize Mr. Higgins from Louisiana for 20 seconds.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Ranking Member as well. Just to briefly respectfully recognize the presence of the family of Wesley Haynes, a constituent. I will speak to his case in my time, Mr. Chairman. His parents, Patrick and Kathy, his wife Olivia, his little brother Brady, are present today, and they have a hard exit soon. Their 4-month-old daughter, Ann Marie, is waiting at home for Olivia to care for her, and I just respectfully acknowledge their presence, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member. We will discuss the details of their case. They tragically lost Wesley Haynes last year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to recognize this beautiful American family.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Mr. Higgins. I am very pleased today to welcome our outstanding witness panel, the mayors of four major American cities.

First, we have Mayor Eric Adams, who is an outstanding Mayor of New York City. He was sworn into office on January 1, 2022. We have Mayor Mike Johnston, who is the Mayor of the City and County of Denver. He was sworn into office on July 17, 2023. I now recognize Representative Krishnamoorthi from Illinois for 1 minute to introduce our next witness.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to introduce Brandon Johnson, Mayor of the greatest city in the world, namely Chicago, a city that was built by generations of immigrants, people like my parents and myself. Mayor Johnson was raised in Elgin, Illinois, which I am proud to represent in Congress. The Mayor was 1 of 10 children born to Andrew and Wilma Jean Johnson. His parents inspired him to become a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools and then later to run for office. Mayor Johnson won his first race for Cook County Commissioner in 2018 and later became Mayor of Chicago in 2023. Mayor Johnson has dedicated his life to public service, and I am pleased to welcome my fellow Illinoian to the U.S. House of Representatives and to the Oversight Committee. Welcome, mayor.

Chairman COMER. I now recognize Representative Pressley from Massachusetts for 1 minute to introduce our next witness.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am proud to introduce Mayor Michelle Wu, a dedicated leader, committed to making Boston a welcoming home for everyone and the first woman and person of color to be elected Mayor in the city of Boston. For over a decade, I have had the privilege of working alongside Mayor Wu and witnessing her dedication to public service firsthand. She leads with compassion. She is innovative and inclusive. Under her leadership, Boston has become the safest major city in America, a city that is welcoming to families from all walks of life. Just weeks ago, she welcomed her newest family member, Baby Mira, who is with us today, a beautiful reminder of the future she is working to build. Madam Mayor, I am grateful for your partnership, friendship, and leadership. Thank you for being here.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. And finally, we are also joined by Mr. David Bier, who is the Director of Immigration Studies at the Cato Institute. Mr. Bier is the minority witness here today. I want to thank you all again for joining us, and I look forward to our discussion this afternoon.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 9(g), the witnesses will please stand and raise their right hand.

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[A chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. Let the record show that the witnesses answered in the affirmative. Thank you all. You may take a seat. We again appreciate you being here today and look forward to your testimony.

Now let me remind the witnesses that we have read your written statement, and they will appear in full in the hearing record.

Please limit your oral statement to 5 minutes and we are going to limit our questions to 5 minutes, and that is going to be enforced today, and that is for both sides.

As a reminder, please press the button on the microphone in front of you so that it is on, and the Members can hear you. When you begin to speak, the light in front of you will turn green. After 4 minutes, the light will turn yellow. When the red light comes on, your 5 minutes have expired, and we would ask that you please wrap up.

I now recognize Mayor Adams for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ERIC ADAMS
MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK**

Mr. ADAMS. Well, good morning, Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Connolly, and Members of the Committee. As Mayor of New York City, and a former police officer for 22 years, keeping New York as safe is my top priority and it has been our administration's North Star. When I entered this role, my job was to help our city recover from the negative effects of COVID, most importantly, to bring down crime. As a result, overall crime was down across New York City last year, and we have now had 3 straight months of double-digit declines in major crimes. I am here today to testify on how New York City can continue to reduce crime even as a sanctuary city.

To be clear, a sanctuary city classification does not mean our city will ever be a safe haven for violent criminals. It also does not give New York City the authority to violate Federal immigration laws. To the contrary, New York City will always comply with city, state, and Federal laws as it does now. Law-abiding immigrants in New York have an important role. Immigrant New Yorkers, including those who are undocumented, pay billions of dollars in taxes and contribute billions more in spending power to our economy. Immigrants also play a vital role in the functioning of the city. This was on full display during the COVID-19 pandemic. The various immigrant residents of our city worked to keep the city moving while many other New Yorkers were able to shelter in place and work remotely. Hospitals, the food industry, and many other businesses were able to function because of the commitment of our immigrant population.

As Mayor, I do not control who enters or remains in our country, but I do have to manage the population that is within our city. In order to carry out this function without having long-term negative ramifications, I must create an atmosphere that allows every law-abiding resident, documented or not, to access vital services without fear of being turned over to Federal authorities. I cannot have a city where parents are afraid to send their children to school or where children are sleeping on the streets, creating the potential for child exploitation and sex trafficking. If an undocumented person refuses to seek medical care until they have a medical emergency, our city's healthcare system will be strained. And if an undocumented individual witnesses a crime but is afraid to call 9-1-1 for fear of being turned over to Federal authorities, criminals will roam free.

It reminds me of my early days as a police officer. I have seen firsthand the damage that can be done when someone is too afraid to seek out the police. Early in my career, I responded to a man who was calling out for help. We caught the suspect, but when it came to filling out the police report, the individual, an undocumented man from China, said he did not want to file a report and put a target on his back with Federal immigration authorities.

Approximately 4 decades later, our country still is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform. And as a result, New York City was hit with the largest humanitarian crisis in our city's history over the last 3 years. Federal law did not allow me to stop buses from entering New York City. State law requires me to provide all in our city with housing and meals and to educate children. City law makes it unlawful to collaborate with ICE for civil enforcement. We comply with all of these legal requirements and still manage the humanitarian crisis with care and compassion, while at the same time bringing down crime, recovering our economy, and preventing any child from being forced to sleep on the streets.

Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. While the solution is not within my control as a mayor, I am committed to working with Federal officials to go after violent gangs and those who harm residents of our city. This is why we have over 330 NYPD officers assigned to different Federal joint task forces, over 70 of which are assigned to task forces with Homeland Security Investigation, the criminal investigation arm of ICE. Those task forces focus on many different important priorities, including going after violent gangs and child exploitation.

I look forward to sharing New York City collaborations that we do daily with our city, state, and Federal partners to keep New York City to continue to be the safest big city in America. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. I now recognize Denver Mayor Johnston for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MIKE JOHNSTON
MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER**

Mr. JOHNSTON. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for inviting me to testify today.

This Committee convened this hearing on the critical topic of immigration. I want to tell you Denver's story. When I became Mayor 20 months ago, Denver was already receiving buses of immigrants with little to no notice or coordination. At one point, we were receiving 10 to 11 buses a day, dropping off as many as 300 people, mostly women and children in 10-degree weather with only sandals and a tee shirt, leaving them in danger of freezing to death on our streets. All told, 42,000 people arrived in Denver over 18 months, the largest per capita influx of any city in America.

We are each entitled to our own opinion about what should happen at the border, but that was not the question facing Denver. The question Denver faced was, what will you do with a mom and two kids dropped on the streets of our city with no warm clothes, no food, and no place to stay? As Mayor, I have to protect the health and safety of everyone in our city. As a man of faith, I have

a moral obligation to care for those in need. As Scripture says, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in.” So, that is what we did.

In Denver, we believe our problems are solvable and we are the ones to solve them, so we went to work. When we started, we had the largest encampment in Denver history with more than 200 migrant families living in freezing temperatures, so we opened eight different city shelters housing 5,000 people. City employees volunteered to take extra shifts, and Denver residents stepped up, making meals, donating clothes, furniture, school supplies. Some even welcomed families into their own homes. We helped 8,700 eligible individuals apply for work authorization so they could put food on their own table, pay their own rent, and reduce the strain on public resources.

As a result, a year later, there is not a single migrant encampment left in the city. We have closed all of our shelters. We have connected people to jobs and housing, and the city’s immigrant support budget has dropped by nearly 90 percent, and in the midst of this, migrants did not bring a wave of crime to Denver. In fact, crime went down. Homicides dropped 17 percent. Shooting victims dropped 24 percent. Auto theft down 29 percent.

America is not just a place, it is a belief. Some people are born into it. Some fight their whole life to get to it. It is a belief that all are created equal. It is a belief that it does not matter where you came from if you are willing to fight hard enough. Julian Becerra’s parents believed that, so they brought him to this country from Mexico when he was 10. They taught him respect, and they taught him to love and serve his community. As an adult, he decided the most honorable way to serve his community was in uniform, so he enlisted in the Air Force. Then he served as a sheriff, then finally as a police officer, where he served with distinction until 1 day he was pursuing a criminal on a dangerous bridge and fell to his death.

In the midst of the immigration crisis, I attended the fallen officer’s memorial as I watched officers hand Officer Becerra’s 10-year-old daughter a folded American flag. I watched her cry as she wrapped her little arms around that flag and holding it tight the way she wished she could hold her dad but never will again. For the rest of her life, she will cherish that flag, that American flag, because it is the country that her dad loved. It is the country he chose. It is the country he served. It is the country he gave his life for. So, if we want to tell the story of what impact immigrants have in America, we must tell the full story. That story must acknowledge that this country is lucky to have people like Julian Becerra, who love this country enough to risk their lives, to keep us safe, to keep all of us safe.

When buses started showing up filled with migrants, some in my city were afraid, just like I am sure some of your constituents were afraid. They were afraid about crime and homelessness, and worried about what these new people might take away from them. I understand that fear, and the truth is, people who are new to this country do good and bad just like all of us, but there is another truth. When those buses kept on coming, Denver made a choice as

a city, not to hate each other, but to help each other, not to turn on each other, but to turn to each other and see if together we could solve a problem that felt bigger than any one of us, and that is what we did. It was not perfect and it required sacrifice from all of us, but in the end, Denver came out stronger and closer than we were before because Americans expect us to do more than point fingers. They expect us to solve problems.

So, if Denver can find a way to put aside our ideological differences long enough to manage a crisis we did not choose or create, it seems only fair to ask that the body that is actually charged with solving this national problem, this Congress, can finally commit to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. I now recognize Chicago Mayor Johnson for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Chairman Comer. Thank you to the Ranking Member Connolly and to Members of this Committee. I have the great privilege and honor of serving as Mayor of the city of Chicago, the third largest city in the Nation. Established by a Black Haitian man and a Potawatomi woman, Chicago is and always has been a proud city of immigrants. Generations of new arrivals, including the descendants of the enslaved during the Great Migration, created a vibrant city where one in five residents is foreign born. Each day, I wake up to serve every one of Chicago's 77 unique neighborhoods and those who live in our great city.

As Mayor of Chicago, nothing is more important to me than the safety and well-being of all residents, and since I was elected, my administration has been laser focused on creating and implementing public safety initiatives that protect all Chicagoans. We launched the People's Plan for Community Safety, which builds trust between communities and law enforcement by prioritizing transparency and violence intervention. We established a dedicated robbery task force that reduced robberies by 25 percent citywide. We added over 200 detectives, increasing the clearance rates on our cases, and we have updated police equipment and technology so that our police officers have the tools they need to effectively prevent and fight crime.

Our efforts to improve public safety by building trust with and investing in our communities are working. Violent crime is down in Chicago. The city ended 2024 with its lowest homicide rate in 5 years. The city is also safer because of our Welcoming City Ordinance. That law makes sure that the city's police resources are focused on our local priorities. In fact, 40 years of Chicago's leaders have recognized that our policies toward civil immigration matters help to prevent and solve crimes.

Put simply, any actions that amplify fears of deportations make Chicago more dangerous. Those fears cause witnesses and victims to avoid cooperating with police. The cooperation of all people, regardless of their immigration status, is essential to achieving the city's goals of reducing crime and pursuing justice for victims. When there is trust between cities' residents and the police, un-

documented immigrants come forward to report crimes to local law enforcement and provide information that helps the police solve those crimes.

And now, I know there are myths about these laws, but we must not let mischaracterizations and fearmongering obscure the reality that Chicago's crime rates are trending down. We still have a long way to go, but sensationalizing tragedy in the name of political expediency is not governing. It is grandstanding. Every violent crime is devastating, but scapegoating entire communities is not only misleading, it is unjust and it is beneath us. So, let me be clear. Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance and our other laws and policies do not lead to more crime. They do not prevent cooperation with Federal law enforcement on criminal matters, and we do not harbor criminals. We arrest them, often because of laws that allow residents to feel safe helping the police.

As Mayor, I am building a Chicago that embodies the dream that my father had when he came from Sallis, Mississippi during the Second Migration, a Chicago that invest in housing, healthcare, jobs, and education. And that is why we have increased safe and stable housing by adding almost 4,000 more units, expanded access to healthcare by opening three mental health centers, and focused on getting our young people well-paying jobs with summer jobs increasing by 45 percent since I have taken office.

Our local partnerships have built a solid foundation for a better, stronger, and a much safer Chicago. We need this body of support for these efforts. We are ready to partner with you on the measures we know promote trust and create sustainable public safety. And to the people of Chicago and all hardworking people across this great Nation, these values are our North Star, the drinking gourd we follow to a better future. We will not live in fear. It is not our portion. We will not go back. I do look forward to answering the questions of this Committee. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. I now recognize Boston Mayor Wu for her opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MICHELLE WU
MAYOR
CITY OF BOSTON**

Ms. WU. Thank you. Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Connolly, and Members of the Committee, my name is Michelle Wu. I am the daughter of immigrants, and since November 2021, I have had the honor of serving as Mayor of Boston. I am proud to be here on behalf of our city—the police officers, first responders, city workers, the faith leaders, teachers, parents, and neighbors, who partner every day to make Boston the safest major city in the Nation. And I am proud every day to work alongside the greatest police commissioner in the Nation, Commissioner Michael Cox.

Every year since I took office, we have set a new record low for gun violence in Boston. Last year, Boston saw the fewest homicides on record in the last 70 years. Those are the facts, and behind these record lows are historic highs: the most-ever young people working paid summer jobs, the most pre-K seats at no cost to families, the most affordable housing built in a generation. We have invested in the kinds of opportunities that cultivate prosperity and

eradicate crime, and the laws on our books promote the kind of community trust that keeps all of us safe.

In Boston, our police department resources and taxpayer dollars go toward preventing and solving crimes, and when it comes to criminal matters, the Boston police partner every day with state and Federal law enforcement. But Massachusetts state law and the Boston Trust Act make clear that immigration is Federal law enforcement's responsibility. We are the safest major city in the country because our gun laws are the strongest in the Nation, because our officers have built relationships over decades, and because all of our residents can trust that when they call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency or to report a crime, help will come.

This Federal Administration's approach is undermining that trust. In the past month, I have met with residents and faith leaders in community centers and places of worship, asking my constituents what they want Congress to know, and what I heard over and over again was fear and frustration. I spoke with pastors whose pews are half empty on Sundays, doctors whose patients are missing appointments, teachers whose students are not coming to class, neighbors afraid to report crimes in their communities, and victims of violence who will not call the police. This Federal administration is making hardworking, tax-paying, God-fearing residents afraid to live their lives. A city that is scared, is not a city that is safe. A land ruled by fear is not the land of the free.

Next month, Boston will celebrate 250 years of our Nation's freedom, and in every one of those years, Boston has welcomed the world to our shores, from the English immigrants fleeing religious persecution, to the Irish forced out by famine, to the families from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cabo Verde, Vietnam, and so many more who call Boston home today.

We are the safest major city in the Nation. We are home to the greatest healthcare, the greatest colleges and universities, the most advanced innovators, and the 2024 World Champion Boston Celtics. We are the cradle of democracy and the city of champions. We are all of these things, not in spite of our immigrants, but because of them.

One in seven signers of the Declaration of Independence were immigrants. On the last four Red Sox rosters to win a World Series, one in five were immigrants. Of all the faculty at Boston University to have earned a Nobel Prize, all but one were immigrants. Today, one in four Boston residents were born somewhere else. Most have jobs, many have kids, all of them chose this country as their home because, like my mom and dad, they believed that here, where you have been does not limit where you are going, the strength of your character has nothing to do with the color of your passport, and that how hard you work matters more than where you were born. That wherever you are from, if you pitch in, look out for your neighbors and cheer for the home team, you can build a better future here for the people you love.

So, to every one of my neighbors back in Boston, know this, you belong here. This is your home. [Speaking foreign language.] This is our city. We are the safest major city in the Nation because we are safe for everyone. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. I now recognize Mr. Bier for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF DAVID J. BIER
DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION STUDIES
THE CATO INSTITUTE**

Mr. BIER. Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Cato Institute's half-century of independent research demonstrates that people of all races, religions, and birthplaces can thrive in a free society. Liberty must be protected, both from over-intrusive government and from private violence. Unfortunately, the President's chaotic, indiscriminate deportation plan does the opposite. It harms public safety, threatens Americans' rights, and undermines the successful integration of America's immigrants into its society and economy.

The President's first action was to rescind the requirement that ICE target public safety threats first. He has ordered that millions of vetted immigrants be stripped of lawful status and deported. He is even attempting to deport the U.S.-born children of people without permanent status. This flagrantly unconstitutional act effectively orders a series of crimes, wrongful arrest, and imprisonment, civil rights violations, and unlawful deprivation of voting rights. Never before in American history has a President sought the power to strip potentially tens of millions of Americans of their constitutional rights.

The President is also explicitly asserting the authority to ignore any law passed by you, Congress, that provides due process for people accused of being in the country illegally. The Administration has repeatedly misled you and the public about who it is targeting, stating it would focus on public safety threats, that only the worst of the worst would be sent to Guantanamo Bay, and that every person it had arrested had a criminal record. We now know that most ICE arrests since the inauguration have been people without a criminal record. Indeed, he is arresting people who entered legally, never violated any law, and sending them to Guantanamo Bay Prison.

It is no surprise in this lawless environment that many people and many cities simply do not trust the Federal Government on immigration. That is a problem, but under our Constitution, states determine their policies. Congress cannot force them. It must reestablish trust. Unfortunately, some Members of Congress want to force an indiscriminate policy of mass deportation on the entire country with no public safety focus. If Congress wants more cooperation, it should address the concerns of these cities. What Congress should do is reestablish trust.

An indiscriminate mass deportation agenda is a far greater threat to public safety than any city policy. A mountain of empirical research shows that reasonable restrictions on ICE cooperation do not increase crime rates and that immigrants lower crime rates. Immigrants, including illegal immigrants, commit crimes serious enough for them to be incarcerated at half the rate of U.S.-born Americans. Data from Texas shows that illegal immigrants are 36

percent less likely to commit and be convicted of murder. At least before this current mass deportation effort, immigrants were more likely to report crimes than U.S.-born Americans. Do not jeopardize that.

Mass deportation is diverting law enforcement resources away from obtaining justice for victims. Indeed, it even targets the victims. Sabotaging local economies and obliterating communities will not restore public safety. It will make us poor while increasing the crime rate and victimization rate for Americans. There is a better approach. We do not need chaos and disorder of illegal immigration or of mass deportation.

Why do people not come legally? Because Congress has provided so few options for them to do so, not updating its laws in the last 3½ decades. Just 3 percent of those applying for permanent legal status in 2024 received it. That is the failed policy. Let peaceful immigrants pay to get vetted, work, and contribute legally, and let law enforcement at all levels focus on keeping Americans safe. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Our witnesses have concluded their opening statements. We are going to begin with questions from Members. And I want to remind the Members, we have 60 Members today that are going to ask questions, so I am going to strictly enforce the 5 minutes. I will hit the gavel if anyone is still talking, and we will allow the witnesses to answer the question. But let us, please, be mindful we have a lot of questioners today for this very important hearing, and, again, we thank the witnesses.

I will recognize myself to begin questions for 5 minutes, and I have limited time, so I want to start with a simple yes or no question. And I am going to hold you all to that because after the first question, then we will allow for a little more time. But, Mayor Johnston, in 2017, Denver prohibited city officials, including corrections officers, from assisting and cooperating with any investigation, detention, or arrest procedures related to Federal immigration laws. The city also stated that Federal immigration authorities shall not be granted access or allowed to use the secure areas of any city or county jail. Mayor Johnston, is Denver a sanctuary city?

Mr. JOHNSTON. A lot of folks use that term——

Chairman COMER. Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Folks use that term differently. I can tell you what Denver does. We do not——

Chairman COMER. OK. I take that as a “yes”. Yes or no. I take that as a “yes”. Mayor Johnson, on March 10, 2023, you posted on X that Chicago must lead and live by the promise to be a sanctuary city. Is Chicago a sanctuary city?

Mr. JOHNSON. A 40-year policy of being a welcoming city.

Chairman COMER. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. A 40-year policy——

Chairman COMER. I take that as a “yes”.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Of being a welcoming city.

Chairman COMER. Mayor Wu, in November 2024, you gave an interview noting that you served on the city council a decade ago when the Boston Trust Act was first passed. You said in that interview that in terms of Boston’s policy, there is a prohibition on resources and personnel going to enforce civil immigration detainees,

meaning Boston Police and other departments cannot cooperate with ICE when it comes to detaining on civil warrants. Mayor, is Boston a sanctuary city?

Ms. WU. Boston is a safe city.

Chairman COMER. I take that as a “yes”. And Mayor Adams, on November 12, 2024, you said, “This is a sanctuary city.” But I must comment that you have—of the witnesses today of the major cities—you have publicly stated that you were willing to work with ICE on detaining the most criminal illegals, and I want to publicly thank you for that. But my question to you, sir, is New York City a sanctuary city?

Mr. ADAMS. Based on our classification, yes.

Chairman COMER. OK. Last year in a Boston suburb, an illegal alien raped and impregnated his 14-year-old daughter while living in a shelter for illegal aliens. Mayor Wu, under Boston law, would you turn this criminal over to ICE on a detainer?

Ms. WU. Whenever there is a criminal warrant, Boston police enforce that and hold people accountable.

Chairman COMER. So, would you turn that criminal over to ICE?

Ms. WU. This happened outside the city of Boston, but I can tell you in the city, whenever someone commits a crime, whenever there is a criminal warrant, we hold them accountable. If ICE deems that they are dangerous enough to hold, obtain a criminal warrant, and the Boston police will enforce it.

Chairman COMER. Will you turn that criminal over to ICE?

Ms. WU. We follow the laws—

Chairman COMER. I take that as a no.

Ms. WU [continuing]. And we make sure that everyone is safe—

Chairman COMER. In Chicago, an illegal alien who is a suspected member of a violent foreign gang, who was brought into custody for his potential involvement in a murder. He was released when Cook County declined to press charges. This illegal alien is also facing charges for kidnapping and sexually assaulting his former girlfriend last year. Now, he is on the streets. Mayor Johnson, under Chicago law, would you turn this criminal over to ICE on a detainer?

Mr. JOHNSON. Our local law enforcement works hard every day to get criminals off the streets of Chicago, and—

Chairman COMER. Would you turn that criminal over to ICE? That is the problem. That is one of the topics of this conversation. That is one of the problems we have heard from Tom Homan and from Homeland Security, is that in your cities, when someone is apprehended for a crime, and ICE is now, with this new Federal policy, wanting to come in and deport the criminal alien, that you will not cooperate with ICE. Will you turn that criminal over to ICE?

Mr. JOHNSON. And we do not harbor criminals. Our local police department works hard every single day to ensure that the city of Chicago is safe.

Chairman COMER. Yes or no. Will you turn the criminal over to ICE?

Mr. JOHNSON. With a criminal warrant from the Federal Government, our local law enforcement repeatedly collaborates with Federal agents.

Chairman COMER. So, you are saying publicly today, you will turn that alien over to ICE in a safe place, like a jail, and not turn them out on the street and say, here you go, ICE, good luck. You will turn that criminal over to ICE?

Mr. JOHNSON. With a criminal warrant, as we have done for 40 years—

Chairman COMER. Should that criminal be turned over to ICE, sir?

Mr. JOHNSON. With a criminal warrant, they are subject to the Federal laws, and that includes deportation.

Chairman COMER. My time has expired. But again, the point that we have got to iron out today, is that we have to have cooperation. It is Federal law to turn over those illegal criminals to ICE, and we have heard reports and many of you have said publicly that you are going to obstruct that. That is against the law and we are going to hear more about that today. Now I recognize the Ranking Member Connolly for his 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you. Mayor Wu, I quoted Tom Homan, the so-called border czar, saying that he was bringing hell to the city of Boston. What did you understand him to mean by that?

Ms. WU. Let us talk about Tom Homan. Shame on him for lying about my city, for having the nerve to insult our Police Commissioner, who has overseen the safest Boston has been in anyone's lifetime. Bring him here under oath and let us ask him some questions. I am here to make sure that the city of Boston is safe. Others may want to bring hell. We are here to bring peace to cities everywhere.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mayor Johnston of Denver, what would your reaction be if Tom Homan wants to bring hell to your city, Denver?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We think that we have folks in Denver who are working hard, playing by the rules, paying taxes. There is no one that is seeking hell to come to Denver. What people are looking for is opportunity and hope, which is why we are available—

Mr. CONNOLLY. And for the record, he can do whatever he wants to do, I guess, but the fact of the matter is you absorbed, on a per capita basis, the largest immigration a year or two ago, and you indicated that your crime rate actually fell. It did not increase. Is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSTON. That is correct. Crime is down in Denver. We have homicides down 17 percent. Violent shootings are down 24 percent—

Mr. CONNOLLY. I am sorry. I have got limited time. Mayor Wu, same thing in Boston. The Boston crime rate has been falling, correct?

Ms. WU. We had 24 homicides last year, 24, too many, but that represented a tremendous reduction, one of the biggest drops anywhere in the country.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you. So, the correlation between immigration and crime is false, as you point out, Mr. Bier. Perhaps you can elaborate that. I find it ironic that you characterized correctly, in my view, President Trump and Tom Homan's approach to immigra-

tion as lawless when they are invoking law and order and crime as the rationale for their lawlessness. Could you expand on the lawlessness and the irony of the fact that, as you point out in your testimony, the crime rate among immigrants is half that of the native population?

Mr. BIER. That is right. I have a table in my written testimony. You can look at top 20 cities for immigration court filings over the last 4 years. Nineteen of those cities saw a decline in their homicide rate. If you look at all of the major cities, there is a negative correlation between increasing numbers of immigrants and the homicide rate, so that means more immigrants, lower homicide rates that holds true across the United States. So, I think the correlation that is trying to be made is more immigrants, more illegal immigrants, more chaos, more crime, that does not hold.

What we do see under this Administration is increasing willingness to ignore the laws. He has, as I mentioned, signed an executive order that says he can ignore due process rights for people who are accused of being in the country illegally. This is an incredibly dangerous assertion of authority and should be investigated by Congress.

Mr. CONNOLLY. And is it a reasonable proposition for our local leader? I know I was Chairman of my county, which is like being mayor of a large county, and, you know, we focused on local law enforcement. You know, we tried to help the Feds when we could. We were cooperative where we could be. But our job was local law enforcement, and there is a clash when ICE behaves this way, and I described some horrible incidents. It instills fear in the immigrant community, and it fosters non-cooperation rather than cooperation, which is the mandate of each of these leaders, is it not?

Mr. BIER. Absolutely. We want cooperation. Many of these cities are the reason why immigrants are more likely to cooperate and report crimes to the police than the U.S.-born population is. So, there are good reasons to limit this mass deportation of people in their communities.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I would just argue that the premise of this hearing is false. We have local law enforcement cooperating with the local political leadership, and it is working. It is bringing down crime rates, and the proposition that immigrants cause crime is false, in fact, patently false as your testimony, I think would demonstrate, Mr. Bier, and the idea that these are sanctuary cities that need to be punished is simply a war on urban America. And I am proud of the mayors who are in front of us here today, and I thank them for their testimony, and I thank them for their service to their local communities. I relate to it, and I think it is a noble calling. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Boebert from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mayor Mike Johnston, I hope we can start off on a level-field of agreement here. So, in your testimony, you said that locals were asking Denver what will you do when they saw 10 to 11 buses coming in a day and 42,000 illegal aliens entering their city. Denver, what will you do? And in a Fox31 interview in January, you blamed state law for not allowing the city of Denver to coordinate with ICE, resulting in Denver

being a sanctuary city, saying, “The whole state is bound by our state law in this, which is pretty consistent in some of these practices. Like, everywhere in the state, we do not honor ICE detainers.” I have demanded Governor Jared Polis and the Colorado State Legislature to repeal them. Douglas County has led on a lawsuit to get those laws repealed. So, Mr. Mayor, would you join me today in calling and demanding that these sanctuary policies, these Colorado state laws be repealed?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congresswoman. Let me say——

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Pardon?

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no, will you join me?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do not believe the detainer law needs to be changed. I can tell you what Denver does right now——

Ms. BOEBERT. OK. So, you do not want them to coordinate with ICE, but yet you are blaming the state of Colorado for those policies. It is a statewide law, it is not a Denver law, and you are blaming the state of Colorado for the law, yet you will not call for that law to be repealed, correct? Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do coordinate with ICE presently. I am happy to tell you what we do on this. We have honored detainer requests more than 1,226 times over the last few years.

Ms. BOEBERT. What about before a warrant? There are many issues before a warrant.

Mr. JOHNSTON. What happens is if ICE sends us a detainer request, we would call a——

Ms. BOEBERT. Well, you have local law enforcement officers, Mr. Mayor, who are unable to coordinate with ICE to even get the initial warrant. They are not allowed to tell them that they are illegal aliens, and unfortunately, you will not join me in asking for this law demanding that this law be repealed. So, let us keep going.

In 2017, Denver passed an ordinance that ensured any city employee who spoke with Federal immigration authorities would be fired, among other policies that have led to local and national media outlets to call Denver a sanctuary city. So now let me ask you, would a city employee be fired for communicating with anyone from the EPA?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Right now, Congresswoman, our policies, we do not ask people’s status right when they contact any——

Ms. BOEBERT. Would any city employee be fired for communicating and coordinating, talking with, an agent from the EPA, a Federal employee?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Not to my knowledge, Congresswoman.

Ms. BOEBERT. What about Health and Human Services? Would they get fired for talking with someone from Health and Human Services?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Not to my knowledge, Congresswoman.

Ms. BOEBERT. So, they would only be fired for talking to Federal law enforcement officers?

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, that is incorrect, Congresswoman. Our——

Ms. BOEBERT. This is an ordinance——

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. City employees do, in fact——

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Denver passed in 2017, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Our city employees do, in fact, communicate with ICE. We do coordinate on multiple things with ICE. For instance, if there is a violent criminal warrant in the city, we pursue that matter together.

Ms. BOEBERT. No, we are talking before the warrants, Mr. Mayor. There are issues happening before warrants are issued and local law enforcement officers are unable to coordinate because there is no warrant, and your ordinance says that a city employee would be fired for communicating with Federal law enforcement. So, you have been Mayor for 600 days. Have you ever called for that ordinance to be repealed?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We are not unable to coordinate with ICE right now. We are in communication with ICE right now.

Ms. BOEBERT. Only if there is a warrant, but I am talking prior to the warrant.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We would not have a reason to coordinate prior to the warrant.

Ms. BOEBERT. Because you do not know if they are illegal because you are unable to coordinate until there is a warrant, so that is why this ordinance needs to be repealed. So now, in 600 days, there has been no time to ask for this to be repealed. You did have a Newcomers Playbook, 25 pages. You had time to put that together, and you had time to agree with the city council to authorize up to \$2 million to pay Joe Biden's former lawyer, his law firm, to help cover your ass for Denver's sanctuary city policies for this hearing, correct?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congresswoman. We have counsel to support—

Ms. BOEBERT. Did you authorize that spending?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We have counsel to support this Committee's investigation into any documents you may have. That is a year-long contract for the 13,000 city employees—

Ms. BOEBERT. And your budget is—

Mr. JOHNSTON. You may request documents from them.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Seriously declining. *Denver Magazine* reported that Denver has spent \$7.5 million on shipping illegal aliens to other destinations. Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes.

Ms. BOEBERT. Did Mayor Johnston ever coordinate with you and tell you that he was shipping illegal aliens to your city?

Mr. ADAMS. We coordinated in communication around the entire asylum seeker issue in our cities.

Ms. BOEBERT. So, I have heard that Denver crime went down. Well, Aurora's crime went up because you were also shipping them to Aurora, and we have documentation that I do not have time to discuss here in this hearing that proves you were shipping illegal aliens to Aurora. Their crime was increasing while you were hiding under laws that you will not demand be repealed—ordinance from your city—

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. And then crime was going up from Tren de Aragua gangs vandalizing department owners.

Chairman COMER. Time is up. The gentlelady's—

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I hope that we can get this resolved for Colorado.

Mr. CONNOLLY. We have a 5-minute rule, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Ms. Norton from Washington, DC.

Ms. NORTON. There has been a lot of talk today about these cities and their, in my view, principled decision not to respond to extrajudicial ICE detainers. But I would like to back up and talk about these detainers, what these detainers really are: requests from ICE to unconstitutionally hold someone without due process or probable cause. Enforcing ICE detainers is also expensive, often results in mistakenly holding U.S. citizens, and undermines public safety. It diverts resources from protecting the local community to carry out the Federal Government's job of immigrant enforcement.

Mayor Johnston, what challenges do ICE detainers represent to your law enforcement and city resources?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congresswoman. I think that was to me, right? Sometimes we get confused.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSTON. OK. Thank you, Congresswoman. I think it is important to describe what Denver currently does in terms of what coordination looks like and what it does not, which is if we get a detainer request, if we have someone in our custody that ICE would like to get access to, what we do is we provide them a notification of release. And so, if that person will be released from our custody, we notify them of the time and the date when they will be released, so ICE, if they choose to, could pick that person up. We have done that 1,226 times over the last 7 years, and that has enabled ICE, when they choose to, to be able to bring someone into custody.

What we do not do is hold someone beyond their release date because there are multiple courts who have found that to be unconstitutional. If someone is serving a sentence and that sentence expires this Friday, we cannot hold them another 7 days without an additional charge. And so that is what state law does and sheriffs around the state would say it is a strain on local resources to hold them for a civil issue that is not linked to a criminal charge that we have in our city or another jurisdiction. That is why we do not honor those types of detainers.

Ms. NORTON. Mayor Johnson, how about for Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, thank you for that question. And for Chicago, again, our top priority with the Welcoming City Ordinance is to ensure maximum safety. The type of coordination that happens between our local law enforcement and our communities is paramount to building trust in keeping our community safe. The ordinance as well as the state law, the Illinois Trust Act, which was passed with bipartisan support and signed by the Republican Governor, Bruce Rauner, we do not permit our local law enforcement from engaging in any Federal matters. With a criminal warrant, our city and our state will cooperate with the Federal Government, but without criminal warrant, our local law enforcement focuses in on local issues to keep the people of Chicago safe.

Ms. NORTON. Mayor Wu, how would fulfilling ICE detainers detract from public safety in your city?

Ms. WU. Thank you, Congresswoman, for hosting us, first of all, in your district. We hear every day from Boston residents, a city that is 28 percent people who are born in another country, that the trust and feeling that they know they can call 9-1-1 when they need help or if they have information to solve a crime and police need that help, that they feel comfortable in doing so. And so, our policy in Boston is that regardless of your background or immigration status, you have access to our libraries. We want you to take your kids to school. We want you to be part of our community. And also, regardless of immigration status, if you commit a crime, if you do harm in the community, you will be held accountable.

Ms. NORTON. It is critical to the safety of Americans that cities have the ability to decide what is in the best interest of their people. Mayors and local enforcement know their cities best. I would yield any time remaining to the Ranking Member.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I just want to underscore what the gentlelady has said. Local government knows best how local law enforcement works. And coordinating with ICE is part of that, but they cannot be a substitute for ICE doing its own job, which is a Federal responsibility. Thank you for yielding.

Chairman COMER. Before I recognize Mr. Jordan, I believe Ms. Boebert has a unanimous consent.

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit to the record multiple local news articles referencing Denver's sanctuary policies, including the "Newcomers Playbook," written by Mayor Adams, and the budget, which shows millions and millions of dollars of the Denver City budget cut.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Jordan from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mayor Johnston, who is Abraham Gonzalez?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. He is an individual that was released from the county jail on Friday in the City and County of Denver.

Mr. JORDAN. That is all you know about him?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do know that he was facing charges that the—

Mr. JORDAN. Venezuelan gang member arrested by Border Patrol on September 20, 2023, released into the country by the Biden Administration. A few months later, he is arrested in your city, charged with aggravated assault. On March 11, 2024, he is charged with motor vehicle theft—stole a car—and then on March 20, 2024, Mr. Gonzalez is charged with felony menacing. Six days after that last charge, ICE sends you a detainer, which includes an administrative warrant. Basically, it says if you are going to release this bad guy, this gang member who allegedly stole a car, menaced people and assaulted people, give us a 48-hour heads up. Is that right? Does that refresh your memory?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do know about the detainer request. I do know that we provided a notification of release.

Mr. JORDAN. What kind of notice did you give ICE when you released him?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We gave him notification. I am not sure how long advance it was.

Mr. JORDAN. One hour.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do know that——

Mr. JORDAN. One hour.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do know that there was——

Mr. JORDAN. One-hour notice, and you released him 5 days ago, right? Why not give him more heads up? Actually, let us put the slide up. Let us see what it says here. But let us put the slide up.

[Slide]

Mr. JORDAN. Kind of hard to see, so I will read. It says, “Denver Sheriff Department, ICE notification being released to the streets.” ICE simply said just release him to us. You released him to the streets. Why not release him to ICE?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you. What we have done, and we do this regularly—we have done 1,226 of these—is we notify ICE——

Mr. JORDAN. I am asking about one. I am not asking about the 1,200.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I understand.

Mr. JORDAN. I am asking about Mr. Abraham Gonzalez, who is a gang member from Venezuela, stole a car, assaulted someone. You had him in your custody for how long?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I know that we released him——

Mr. JORDAN. Three-hundred-and-forty-five days you had him in custody, and ICE said, hey, can you give us 48 hours heads up.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do not know that

Mr. JORDAN. You gave them 1-hour notice.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. Congressman, we notified them of release. There were six ICE agents present when he was released, so they had enough time to respond and to be present.

Mr. JORDAN. Respond where?

Mr. JOHNSTON. To the jail where we released him from. So, we notified them of the release time. When we notify them of release, they come to the jail facility to pick them up. They are still on——

Mr. JORDAN. That is not what you said. You said you released him to the streets. Did you release him to the streets or did you release him to ICE?

Mr. JOHNSTON. What we do, sir, is we released him from our county jail, and we coordinate with ICE on that release time and release date so that ICE can come and pick them up from that location. They were——

Mr. JORDAN. Pick them up where, in the parking lot?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir. They were on the facility property——

Mr. JORDAN. That is what happened in the parking lot.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I know, sir. I have reviewed the video. So, I looked at it. I have talked to the sheriff last night. I have already——

Mr. JORDAN. One of the ICE officers got assaulted, didn't he?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I have reviewed the video, sir.

Mr. JORDAN. Had to tase the guy, didn't they?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Would you like me to answer, sir?

Mr. JORDAN. No, I would like you to answer, did they tase him?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I know that there were six officers that had multiple tasers. I saw that on video.

Mr. JORDAN. If you keep him in the facility and they come in the facility and get him, does it take six officers? Probably takes two, doesn't it?

Mr. JOHNSTON. So, we have been doing these, as I mentioned, 1,226 times. This is the first time I have been made aware of there has been an incident like this. So, I reached out to ICE after I saw the video. I have coordinated with their team and offered to sit down and see if there are procedures we can change——

Mr. JORDAN. It is a simple question.

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. And make sure this works smoothly.

Mr. JORDAN. It is a simple question. You can release him in the parking lot, give ICE 1-hour notice, and they got to send six officers to arrest this guy, or you can say, hey, here is what we are going to do. We are going to hold him, you come in and bring two officers in, and you turn him over there. Why not do it that way?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We have a city ordinance——

Mr. JORDAN. You know why you do not do it that way?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We have a city ordinance that covers——

Mr. JORDAN. Because you are a sanctuary city. This is the whole point.

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, sir. I disagree with you.

Mr. JORDAN. Oh, OK.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Because I will tell you why. If you talk about sanctuary as a definition of shielding people from law enforcement, we do not do that. What we do do is provide services. In this context, what we did is we coordinated the release——

Mr. JORDAN. An officer got assaulted because your policy, which says we are going to release him to, in your words, not mine, to the streets. They have to arrest him in the parking lot. They bring six officers when they could have had one or two just come in your facility in the jail and take the guy there, but you will not do it that way.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I have seen the video. I have reached out to ICE.

Mr. JORDAN. I do not care if you have seen the video. I know the facts, too.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I have offered to sit down and coordinate on strategies. If we need to make adjustments to what we do on releases, we will do that. This is the first time in the 1,226 releases and I——

Mr. JORDAN. I read your written——

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. Will take action.

Mr. JORDAN [continuing]. Testimony last night. I read your written testimony last night, 4½ pages, and you used the word, "safe," "safer," or "safety" 13 times, talking about, "My job is the safety of the people in Denver." "We are prioritizing making sure everyone in our community is safe." That is a lie because it was not safer for the ICE agents who are part of your community. No way was it safe. The safest thing to do is to say ICE, we got him in custody. Come here. We are releasing. We held him 345 days. We cannot hold him a second longer. We cannot wait for you to come inside the building. We got to let him go, so you have to arrest him in the parking lot. That is how stupid sanctuary policies are and what they mean to the community that you put at risk and to the ICE officers who——

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, the 5-minutes is up.

Chairman COMER. Time has expired.

Mr. JORDAN [continuing]. The ICE officer who was assaulted and they had to use a taser. It is not good them.—

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Lynch from Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Connolly. I want to thank the panelists for your willingness to come before the Committee and help us with our work.

You know, I truly believe that if we had a rational and comprehensive immigration policy in this country, if we competently regulated the flow of immigration, if we knew the purpose and circumstances of each immigrant's arrival here, and if every immigrant knew what was expected of them when they arrived, I honestly and truly believe that immigration could be the greatest blessing for our country. Look at our world rivals, China and Russia. No one is trying to sneak into China, sneak into Russia. It is because of what we offer here as a Nation.

There is a substantive issue that is at play here, and I want to address that. So, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution, it provides Congress, and I will read the section here, "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization." And Clause 18 further provides that "Congress has the power to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper to execute its enumerated powers, including immigration." So, it appears that Congress has taken up that responsibility in the Immigration and Nationality Act, which they exercise under constitutional writ. On the other hand, we have local so-called sanctuary city laws. So, those sanctuary cities laws tend to address local cooperation with Federal authorities in your jurisdictions, within your cities, and sometimes it does appear that the sanctuary city laws are defending against the congressional grant of authority to operate in that area.

Now, you all, as mayors, and I ask this of the entire panel, you deal with this every single day, and we have heard some of it in your testimony eloquently. How do we, as lawmakers, we are struggling with this right now. There is a tension between that authority of Congress to act under Article I of the Constitution and then your responsibility, nobly taken, to provide a safe environment for the residents and visitors to your cities. How do we reconcile, and I am asking you for advice. You have a great perspective on this. How do we, together, reconcile the tension between those two operating systems, grants of power? And I would welcome any advice you have on that because that is what we are struggling with up here in terms of trying to come up with a comprehensive immigration policy that addresses all of these concerns. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Congressman, I am happy to start the response. We obviously believe there is a Federal system that has Federal obligations and state and local obligations. We think, as Mayor Wu said, that our officers are uniquely prepared, trained, and ready to enforce local law and to keep our city safe. We want to focus on that. We do not have the capacity for our law enforcement to be doing Federal immigration enforcement, but we want to be part-

ners in making sure we are pulling violent criminals off the street. We do that now. We have done in the past. We will keep doing it, but we think the capacity for the Federal Government to focus on——

Mr. LYNCH. But what I am trying to point at is this. So, the current President of the United States, Donald Trump, rode into office on this issue. On this issue. He put people in fear. I am in a state that is 2,400 miles from the border. We are going to spend \$1.5 billion on providing services and housing and everything to people who are in our state unlawfully. He got into office on that issue, so the costs to democracy are massive. It is now threatening our democracy because we have mishandled this issue. So, we need to get together on this and turn immigration, like I say, into the greatest blessing that this country has and not something that people are afraid of. That is the challenge.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I agree.

Ms. WU. May I, Congressman?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Please.

Ms. WU. This may be the last blue——

Mr. LYNCH. Oh, my friend.

Ms. WU. This may be the last blue dress I am wearing this month. It is going to be green from here on now as we celebrate Irish American Heritage back at home. Please pass comprehensive immigration law that is consistent and compassionate that will make our jobs possible, and we would so appreciate that partnership.

Mr. LYNCH. I hear you. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes——

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. I am sorry?

Ms. PRESSLEY. I have unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead. Proceed.

Ms. PRESSLEY. OK. I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record, “Thousands of DHS Agents Shift to Deportation Instead of Drugs, Weapons, and Human Trafficking.” That is February 2025, *USA Today*.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Also, “Parents Pull Kids from Childcare as Immigration Fears Hit U.S. Youngest.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Finally, “An 11-Year-Old Girl in Texas Died by Suicide After She Was Bullied About Her Family’s Immigration Status, Her Mother Says.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Dr. Gosar from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mayor Wu, I will be showing up at your house tomorrow with my bags at 5. Leave your doors unlocked, please. What are you making for dinner because I expect a new warm meal and a balanced diet. Now, I am going to need a car, and please leave me some cash because I am going to need to go to my doctor’s appointment on Friday. That would be to Mayor Johnson. Now, I do not want to sleep on the couch, so put me up at a luxury hotel. Another to Mayor Johnson. Obviously,

you would not like this because you do not know me, right? You know nothing about me. You might not like that. Sanctuary cities offer this kind of hope, this false hope to illegal aliens by saying that very thing. Stay with me. We do not tell anybody that you break our laws. Now, thank you. You have made the United States complicit and one of the largest purveyors of human trafficking in the world. Thank you. You are disgracing the legal immigration system and the immigrants that came here the right way through Ellis Island at the time, now going through a process.

And I want to talk about that process because I have always been told, and it has never been really challenged, is that good process builds good policy, builds good politics. I think that works really, really good because you can always fall back to the process. If the process is not good, you always get a bad process. Now, you heard the word “establishing trust,” OK? How can you establish trust at the very beginning when you have a false narrative here? You are defending folks who have broken the law. The definition I have always looked at is trust is a series of promises kept. What kind of trust you are supporting here? What is the trust in an illegal alien? It is a false hope. It is a false trust. Welcome, we are bringing you in. It is a disorganized process.

Now, let me ask you a question, Mr. Adams. Did you support SB 1070?

Mr. ADAMS. I am sorry, sir?

Mr. GOSAR. Did you support the Arizona law called SB 1070?

Mr. ADAMS. I am not familiar with it, sir.

Mr. GOSAR. Well, let me explain, OK?

Mr. ADAMS. Uh-huh.

Mr. GOSAR. SB 1070 challenged the Federal Government and its supremacy clause because we, in Arizona, the government was not doing anything, so we thought we will do this. We cannot allow them to break laws, and the Supreme Court ruled, struck it down. Now, it seems contraindicating here that you would have supported SB 1070, right, Mayor Adams, based on the promise that you, or would you violate the supremacy clause in regard to immigration?

Mr. ADAMS. Would I violate?

Mr. GOSAR. Violate the supremacy clause?

Mr. ADAMS. This is well way over my head. I felt——

Mr. GOSAR. That is OK. That is OK.

Mr. ADAMS. I am not understanding.

Mr. GOSAR. Mayor Johnston, would you have supported SB 1070, allowing Arizona to follow their own laws because that is what you are doing right here.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. We currently follow all Federal law, all state law, and all local law, so we do not have any supremacy clause challenges that we are pursuing or maintaining.

Mr. GOSAR. OK. Well, it seems like you are, but Mr. Johnson, do you agree?

Mr. JOHNSON. The city of Chicago complies with all laws.

Mr. GOSAR. OK. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. I am not familiar with that law because I am focused on the city of Boston, but we follow all state, city, and Federal laws in Boston.

Mr. GOSAR. What happens when you get in conflict with them? Who do you support?

Ms. WU. The Constitution, as I understand it, does not require cities or police officers or anyone to follow Federal laws in conflict with local laws or state laws.

Mr. GOSAR. OK. In the Constitution, it says, explicit, that the Federal Government has jurisdiction and supremacy over all immigration laws, right? I mean, I have heard it a number of times from my colleagues over here. We are the ones who can define that. We just heard we want a comprehensive immigration policy. How can you get a comprehensive immigration policy when you are defying it from the very get-go? You are building it on false premises and false tenants.

Ms. WU. Respectfully, Congressman, you could pass bipartisan legislation, and that would be comprehensive immigration law.

Mr. GOSAR. What would you have?

Ms. WU. A false narrative is that immigrants, in general, are criminals or immigrants, in general, cause all sorts of danger and harm. That is actually what is undermining safety in our communities. If you wanted to make us safe, pass gun reforms, stop cutting Medicaid, stop cutting cancer research, stop cutting funds for veterans. That is what will make our city safe.

Mr. GOSAR. Yes. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Krishnamoorthi from Illinois.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mayor Johnson, there has been much talk about Chicago and its enforcement of laws to rid our communities of criminals, so I want to give you a chance to address some of these questions. First, Mayor Johnson, the city of Chicago operates under four sets of laws: Federal, state, county, and of course, Chicago's own laws, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. And most of these laws are not within Chicago's sole power to change. For example, the Illinois Trust Act, a state law, was enacted in 2017 by then Republican Governor, Bruce Rauner, and dictates interactions between ICE and law enforcement, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. And under Chicago's own law—I have a copy of it right here—Chicago is required to help ICE whenever ICE presents a judicial criminal warrant for an arrest, correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. In fact, Chicago has assisted ICE with criminal warrants in the past, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. So, just to clear it up, anytime that ICE does the work and goes to a court to get a criminal warrant to arrest somebody, the city of Chicago not only is required to, but does cooperate to remove that criminal from our community, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. Let me turn to another topic. President Trump has said many things about Chicago, including that it is—I have this NBC news report—“worse than Afghanistan.” Mayor, I would suggest that facts suggest otherwise. For example, Condé

Nast recently named Chicago the best big city in America 8 years in a row?

Mr. JOHNSON. A friendly amendment, best freaking city in the world, city of Chicago.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Chicago is the largest rail hub in America?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Chicago is a quantum technology hub in this country?

Mr. JOHNSON. Twenty billion dollar new investment.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. The Chicago area is the home to the second most number of Fortune 500 headquarters of any city in America, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. Just voted again, the top relocater for corporate headquarters for 13 consecutive years.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. And it is home to O'Hare Airport, the most interconnected airport on the continent. Is that right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. That does not sound like Afghanistan to me, sir, does it?

Mr. JOHNSON. The city of Chicago is a beautiful place. We also have 20 percent of the world's fresh water right in our front yard. Our restaurants are amazing. In fact, everything that is dope about America comes from Chicago.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. A Republican named Lincoln was nominated for President in Chicago, and a Democrat named Obama called Chicago home, too. It is the city of big shoulders, the heart of the heartland, the home to the world's best pizza, and we are not going to take any slander from Donald Trump or anyone else lying down. Is that right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Sir, I want to turn your attention to another topic. Mayor Johnson, you would agree with me that high grocery prices are among the top concerns for the people of Chicago, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. The economic conditions, unfortunately, that are not being addressed by Washington has caused a great deal of trepidation and anxiety.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mayor Wu, according to USDA, the wholesale cost of a dozen eggs has gone from \$6.59 since January 19 when Donald Trump took office to \$8.39, a 27-percent increase, and this has got to anger Bostonians, right?

Ms. WU. People are doing their very best, trying their hardest, working multiple jobs, and they need support.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mayor Johnston, I suppose that people in Denver are concerned as well, right?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Very concerned. This is the most important issue for us, is how we make sure that it is affordable to live in the city.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mayor Adams, the same is true for New Yorkers?

Mr. ADAMS. Affordability is an issue that is impacting our city, and that is why we are doing best we can to putting \$30 billion back in the pockets of working-class people.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. President Trump, if you are watching this hearing, I respectfully ask, when will egg cost be high enough for you to issue one executive order on bird flu: \$10 a carton, \$15 a carton? It will soon be cheaper to buy a magazine for an AK-47 than to buy breakfast. This is flat-out wrong.

I will turn to my last topic. Interestingly, last night in a record long address, the President did not mention the word "Medicaid" once, which is top of mind for everyone. Mayor Johnson, you do not dispute that 1.6 million people in Cook County are enrolled in Medicaid, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do not dispute that. In fact, in most of our safety net hospitals, 70 percent of the individuals that are being serviced, are being serviced through Medicaid.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. I recently received outreach from Lurie Children's, a preeminent children's hospital located in Chicago, and they said that "slashing Medicaid will put access to care for all children in our state at risk." You would agree that is unacceptable, right?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is unacceptable.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. It does not matter where you are from. If you are White, Black, Brown, poor or rich, massive cuts to Medicaid will devastate our healthcare system. Thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Perry from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mayors, thanks for being here, leaving your cities to come to Washington, DC. today. By either definition or by claim, each of you, I think, could justifiably say, represent what is considered a sanctuary city. If you could describe it, sanctuary from what? Anybody? Mayor Johnson? You want to start, Mayor Johnston? Yes.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. I welcome that because I wanted to clarify. We do not shield people from Federal law.

Mr. PERRY. I just asked you what—

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not provide sanctuary—

Mr. PERRY. So, you do not consider yourself a sanctuary city?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We provide services and support. We do not provide—

Mr. PERRY. Do you consider yourself a sanctuary city? That is just—

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not, under that definition.

Mr. PERRY. You do not use the definition. So, you are not a sanctuary?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We call ourselves a welcoming city. We—

Mr. PERRY. OK. So, what are you welcoming, and who are you not welcoming?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Well, we are welcoming everybody.

Mr. PERRY. OK.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not keep folks—

Mr. PERRY. So, you are welcoming criminals that you do not have any idea what their crime background is, and you are good with that?

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, we aggressively pursue—

Mr. PERRY. How you do that? No, no. How do you vet the people that you welcome in your sanctuary city?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Sir, we do not vet folks that arrive from Illinois or California with a background check when they come into the Denver airport any more than someone from another local——

Mr. PERRY. So, you are welcoming any illegal immigrant or illegal alien to your city without question?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Well, folks that make the decision to come to Denver, they arrive and then we expect them to get——

Mr. PERRY. You welcome them. You call them to your city and say, if you come here, you will be safe from what?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. We do not call anyone to our city. Folks that arrive in our city, we offer same access to services they may need to be successful, and if they break the law, we hold them accountable. We charge them. We prosecute them.

Mr. PERRY. What about if they have already broken the law?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Well, if they have already broken the law and there is another jurisdiction that has a warrant for that person, they let us know, and we would cooperate to transfer them to that jurisdiction.

Mr. PERRY. I think we saw in Mr. Jordan's conversation with you that you really do not do that. Mayor Johnson, how about you? According to my records, you have welcomed 51,648 illegal aliens to your sanctuary city, so I would ask you sanctuary from what?

Mr. JOHNSON. If you are referring to the number of individuals that were bused from Governor Abbott without any coordination, the 52,000 individuals that were seeking asylum, those individuals were bused to us. I passed a bus ordinance to work to coordinate with the Governor of Texas. He refused to do that, but that transfer of individuals was the result of the Governor of Texas, not the result of a Welcoming City Ordinance.

Mr. PERRY. Welcoming City Ordinance. So, you are not welcoming these people that came here illegally?

Mr. JOHNSON. The individuals that were bused to us were bused to us from the border——

Mr. PERRY. They were not welcomed to Chicago? You did not welcome them? You did not provide them sanctuary?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, the Welcoming City Ordinance is pretty straightforward. It allows for our local law enforcement to focus on local policies, and that is why we are seeing a decline in violence.

Mr. PERRY. So, you do not care about Federal law enforcement policies, only local policies?

Mr. JOHNSON. We comply with all laws. What I do care about is this body, Washington, passing comprehensive immigration law.

Mr. PERRY. So, let me ask you this. Chicago residents reported 28,443 violent crimes during 2024 alone, cases of aggravated assault rising to the highest level in 2 decades. Now also, state funds, \$160 million, were issued for illegal alien job assistance shelters in Chicago. You are the Mayor of Chicago. Do you think that your residents or the residents of your state should be paying for that more than they should be paying for their own needs, their own roads, their own public safety? I mean, who elected you, the people that came illegally whether they were sent to you or not, or the

people that reside in Chicago? Who elected you and who do you serve?

Mr. JOHNSON. The people of Chicago elected me as the 57th Mayor of the city of Chicago, and we serve all the residents of the city of Chicago.

Mr. PERRY. Illegal or not, criminal or not, how many of the 662,566 illegal aliens with criminal histories that ICE has reported are now residing in Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. Someone will have to get back with you with that number. I do not keep a count of—

Mr. PERRY. Do you take immigration information from criminals as they are arrested and processed? Do you take immigration information?

Mr. JOHNSON. Our local law enforcement focuses on getting all violent individuals off the streets of Chicago.

Mr. PERRY. Do you determine whether they are here legally, what their immigration status is as a function of criminal of your justice system?

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. Please feel free to answer the question, Mayor.

Mr. JOHNSON. The Welcoming City Ordinance ensures that our local residents communicate and trust local law enforcement to ensure that criminals and crime is being addressed, and that is why crime has gone down in the city of Chicago.

Mr. PERRY. But that does not apply if you are illegal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes—

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes—

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. I am sorry, Ms. Pressley.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I have unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you. I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record, "Mass Deportations Would Deliver a Catastrophic Blow to the U.S. Economy."

Chairman COMER. What publication is that?

Ms. PRESSLEY. This is from the Joint Economic Committee, December 2024.

Chairman COMER. From where? What publication?

Ms. PRESSLEY. The Joint Economic Committee, December 2024.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record from the American Immigration Council, October 2024, "Mass Deportation: Devastating Cost to America, Its Budget and Economy."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Khanna from California.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Chair—

Chairman COMER. Oh, wait. I am sorry, I am sorry. Mayor Wu needs a short break to attend to her young child. Mayor—

Ms. WU. Mr. Chairman, I got the note that the baby is OK for now, so I will continue, but thank you. I believe from my husband that the baby is OK, and——

Chairman COMER. OK.

Ms. WU. And the arrangement, if it is OK, is everyone would take a break so I would not have to go into a back room by myself to nurse when it is time. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. OK. The Chair recognizes Mr. Khanna.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I find the Republican position in this hearing quite ironic because the Republicans are the party that are always touting local government, state government, local control, and not having Federal overreach. So, I want to explore actually one of your favorite topics on the other side of the aisle, the infamous mask mandates. I know how much you love them.

When CDC came out with a mask mandate order of January 29, 2021, they said that we needed to have fines of \$1,500 for anyone who did not wear a mask on a plane or in a public space, and they said that they needed to be referred criminally to the Transportation Authority if they violated it more than once. Now, Governor Abbott said in Executive Order 38, we are not going to have our cities enforce the mask mandate, and Governor DeSantis said the same thing, we are not going to have our local police enforce the mandate. I want to ask Mayor Adams and Mayor Wu because you had slightly different views on the mask mandate. But Mayor Adams, you were actually praised in New York for saying we are going to take away some of these mask mandates earlier so businesses can open and there can be a revival in New York. Did you ever, and law enforcement, to your knowledge, enforce the CDC mask mandate and ask your law enforcement to fine people who did not wear a mask \$1,500?

Mr. ADAMS. What we did was look at the science and looked at how it will impact business, and after issuing warnings and education——

Mr. KHANNA. But I think it is fair to say, Mayor, right, you never referred anyone to the Transportation Department for prosecution, and you never had local police out there saying we are going to fine people \$1,500 with the CDC mandate?

Mr. ADAMS. The goal was to always ensure that people would carry out the procedure, and we did several education and warning in the process.

Mr. KHANNA. Mayor Wu, you were a great advocate of masks and looked at the science. Do you know if your city government actually ever used police resources to carry out the CDC or Transportation Department's mask mandate where they were fining \$1,500 or referring for criminal prosecution?

Ms. WU. I am not aware of any incidents of someone in Boston having been fined or prosecuted for any mask-related issues. We certainly prioritized public health and saving lives, and so our role as a city was to provide positive communication, outreach, make sure there were signs and different community organizations that could go and remind people to stay safe and do their best to take care of each other in their family.

Mr. KHANNA. And as much of an advocate as you were for masks and I was an advocate for masks, would you have been hesitant to order your law enforcement, your local police to say, if someone was violating those mask mandates that we need to cooperate and turn them over to the Transportation Department for prosecution? Would that have given you some pause if the Federal Government were saying use your police departments to fine people \$1,500 and give us their records for criminal prosecution?

Ms. WU. Yes, it would have.

Mr. KHANNA. And so, I guess I am trying to understand, you know, if we set this precedent that we want cities to be enforcing every Federal mandate, then what happens when there is a new Democratic President that comes and says we want a mask mandate that the Republicans may not want, and when there are conservatives, like Governor DeSantis or Governor Abbott saying we do not want our cities to enforce that. Do you see, Mayor Wu, any difference between a Federal Government asking you to enforce laws that ICE is doing versus a Federal Government asking you to enforce a mask mandate or, frankly, to enforce gun laws that may not be what your local city department is focused on?

Ms. WU. It does seem that local authority is part of our democracy and part of our system of government.

Mr. KHANNA. Isn't the real issue here not one of immigration, but of federalism? I mean, everyone agrees that if there is someone who is convicted of a crime, that ICE has the right to enforce those laws. The question is just, are you going to have local governments in this country be beholden to every new President's directives and armed for enforcing that? My view is that we ought to have local governments be able to use their police officers for their priorities. That, in its essence, is federalism, and it actually used to be the conservative Republican position.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Dr. Foxx from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mayor Johnson, in the last 4 years, how much has Chicago spent on care for illegal aliens?

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you for that question, Congresswoman. So, since 2022, since the Governor of Texas began shipping—

Ms. FOXX. Just tell me a number. I do not need a speech. Just tell me a number.

Mr. JOHNSON. So, since 2022, since the Governor of Texas was shipping individuals to cities across this country, the city's budget, roughly 1 percent of the city's budget, over the course of 4 years.

Ms. FOXX. Mayor Johnston, the same question, and I do not need a speech, just a number.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Dr. Congresswoman. Thank you, Congresswoman. It is \$79 million over the last 2½ years.

Ms. FOXX. Mayor Adams, same question. How much has New York spent to care for illegal aliens?

Mr. ADAMS. Approximately, \$6.9 billion went out of our taxpayers' funds.

Ms. FOXX. Mayor Wu, same question. How much has Boston spent to care for illegal aliens in the last 4 years?

Ms. WU. We do not ask about immigration status in giving city services and providing that access, so we do not have a number.

Ms. FOXX. Taxpayers have been bearing the brunt of the massive wave of illegal aliens who have entered the United States. The Biden Administration seemingly declared taxpayers and hard-working Americans collateral damage in the pursuit of open borders. Again, Mayor Johnson, are NGOs providing services to illegal aliens in Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. In accordance with the Welcoming City Ordinance, our sister agencies, or city departments, we do not seek the status of any individual that is seeking service.

Ms. FOXX. Mayor Johnston, are NGOs providing services to illegal aliens in Denver?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, ma'am. When folks arrive on the streets without food or resources or shelter, we do provide food or shelter regardless of where folks arrive from.

Ms. FOXX. Mayor Adams, same question.

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, in combination of city agencies and nonprofits, we responded to the migrant asylum seekers humanitarian crisis that hit our city.

Ms. FOXX. And, Mayor Wu, I assume you do not know their status, but do you know are NGOs providing services to people arriving in your city without any kind of documentation?

Ms. WU. There are community organizations, many of them in Boston, who seek to serve all of our Boston residents.

Ms. FOXX. Congress must provide oversight and ensure accountability for taxpayer funds going to NGOs. Agents from Customs and Border Protection have been outspoken in opposition to allowing NGOs to assist illegal aliens in subversion of law and order. When asked if NGOs are working at cross-purposes to the mission of Border Patrol agents, the Chief of the National Border Patrol Council said, "Most definitely, and they should not be allowed, but our government allows it." NGOs receiving taxpayer funding through grants pay for everything from food, shelter, and transportation to legal services that help the migrants traverse Mexico.

That is why I introduced H.R. 245, the Grant Integrity and Border Security Act. This bill would require all NGOs who apply for a Federal grant to certify as part of their application that they have not, will not, and are not engaging in acts that violate Federal immigration law. If NGOs continue violating our immigration laws, then my bill would ensure that no Federal funds can ever go to the violators. It is time to pass this bill, ensure accountability, and secure our cities and the border. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Brown from Ohio.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we have heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle demean and dehumanize immigrants, choosing fearmongering and political theater over real solutions. So, let us take a moment to set the record straight.

The best chance for comprehensive immigration reform came in 2013 when a bipartisan Senate majority passed a bill strengthening border security and providing a path to citizenship for long-time residents, but House Republicans killed it. Fast forward a decade later to last year, the Senate crafted another bipartisan deal, one that would have enhanced border security and tackled the

fentanyl crisis with better technology and more agents, but Donald Trump torpedoed it, preferring anti-immigration rhetoric to real solutions. So, this is not about fixing the problem. It is about exploiting it, and let us not forget the President was not complaining about this when he was employing undocumented immigrants at his resort.

We all remember President Trump's tired, old tactics from his first term: the harmful Muslim ban, referring to Black and Brown countries as "shithole countries," and the cruel images of kids in cages. This time around is no different. President Trump signed multiple executive orders before even attempting to work with Congress, mind you, a Republican-controlled Congress. So, this is not about policy. It is about fear.

For the last decade, Trump has pushed menacing messages portraying all immigrants as criminals, but it is not just coming from Trump. It is being amplified by right-wing media. A recent exit polls found that people who watch Fox News are twice as likely to believe myths about immigration, including the false idea that immigrants commit more crimes than native-born Americans. This is objectively false, yet 2 in 3 Fox viewers believe it is true. This serves a purpose: fueling outrage, distracting from real solutions, and keeping the conversation stuck in a cycle of fear instead of facts. And Trump's latest immigration crackdown reinforces these misperceptions: ICE raids choreographed for cameras, deportation sweeps with photo ops, wardrobe changes, and tough talk, the cruel, performative videos of immigrants in shackles; \$200 million in taxpayer money to air pro-Trump propaganda ads; talk about waste, fraud, and abuse. All spectacle, no substance. All performance, no plan.

On the campaign trail, J.D. Vance and Donald Trump promoted vile and xenophobic lies about Haitian immigrants in my state of Ohio, and now, the Trump Administration has moved to strip protections from 500,000 Haitians. These are people who have lived, worked, and contributed to this country for years, and they came here the right way, the legal way. But instead of recognizing their contributions, we are forcing them back to a country plagued by violence, instability, and humanitarian crisis, all so Trump can claim 500,000 more deportations. The cruelty is not just the point. It is their pleasure.

So, let us be honest about what is really going on here. Mayor Johnson of Chicago, what sort of an impact will the Trump Administration's decision to allow arrests at sensitive locations, like hospitals, preschools, churches, and courts have on your city?

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you for that question. As a welcoming city space, it is important that the trust between the community and law enforcement is strong. That is ultimately how we have built a safer city. Just this year alone, violent crime is down 20 percent. Any type of threat to the civility and to the humanity of people is a threat to the evolution of our democracy. And so, it is incumbent upon Washington to ensure that we are funding our education system, that we are funding our transportation system, our healthcare system, creating more jobs. Just since I have been in office, we have increased youth employment, summer jobs, by over 40 percent, making sure that our young people see their purpose is the

value of this democracy. And so, I call on this body to continue to invest in the city of Chicago that sends billions of dollars to Washington.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you. Fear and cruelty are not the solution. It is distinctly un-American and a dangerous distraction from the Congress's responsibility to actually deliver progress on this challenging facing our country, and with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. Grothman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Yes, just a couple comments first. As far as the idea who is committing crimes, we have no idea how many illegal immigrants in this country are committing crimes because nobody keeps track, OK? If I go to a prison or a jail in Wisconsin with, I do not know, 1,500 inmates, and I ask how many of these people are here illegally or how many are citizens of another country, nobody will know the answer to that question. So, that is why we do not have hard facts on how many crimes people committed.

The other thing I would like to point out is every year in this country, about 850,000 new people from other countries are sworn in as American citizens. I do not know of Donald Trump ever talking about reducing that number. Maybe he should reduce that number, but I have never heard him talk about reducing that number. Our concern here was illegal immigration, and I would hope the vast majority of Americans think we ought to have an immigration law that the 850,000 new citizens every year go through. But if we are going to have an immigration law, it means we have to do something with the people who try to become permanent residents without going through the proper structure.

Now, I think part of our problem here is we have a lot of people who do not understand why we have an immigration law at all. And I want to ask all four of you, as we go down the row here, do you believe the United States should have an immigration law, or do you believe that just anybody should be able to show up and come in? And we will start with Mayor Adams there.

Mr. ADAMS. I strongly believe we need to have an immigration law. I strongly believe we need to secure our borders. We witnessed a 90-percent decrease and we are seeing that play out in our city, so we should have a strong immigration law.

Mr. GROTHMAN. And I will ask this question then. If you believe we should have an immigration law, and then we will get all four of you here, if you believe that, do you believe people who ignore the law, whatever that law is, should be allowed in the country?

Mr. ADAMS. I think that all of us must be held accountable to the law, and if we secure our borders to make sure before they come in, that is done correctly, it is not going to impact cities to carry that burden, like I said, close to \$7 billion in tax dollars.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Johnston, do you believe we ought to have an immigration law in this country, or do you believe everybody should just be able to walk in here and set up shop?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. I do believe we should have an immigration law. I do believe we should have secure borders. I do believe we should fix our asylum process. I do believe we should let Dreamers get access to permanent citizenship—

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Then the question is, if somebody ignores that law and comes in this country, do you believe the whoever, ICE or Border Patrol, or anybody should spin them around and send them out, or can they just ignore the law and because they crossed the Rio Grande, overstaying a visa, whatever, are here? You do believe that we ought to do something to the people who are ignoring the law?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. In the case of the folks we are seeing, they are coming here because they are claiming asylum. When they claim asylum, they then have a right to a day in court to see if that asylum claim is valid.

Mr. GROTHMAN. The question is, though, if I come in this country and stay here, and I have not gone through any formal process to become a citizen or to be a legal visa or whatever, should we kick that person out?

Mr. JOHNSTON. The folks that we are serving, sir, are trying very hard to navigate that legal process. It is often a 7-year wait for a court date when they arrive at this country, so part of it is the backlogged administrative deport—

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Let me tell you this. Every month under President Biden, at least the statistics I have, 30-to-40,000 people, what are called got-aways, came across the Southern border, did not ask for asylum, did not ask for anything. Do you believe that people who just come across that way should be escorted out of the country, or do you believe just because they ran between the designated checkpoints that they, as the result, get to stay here forever?

Mr. JOHNSTON. And sir, we are serving folks who are seeking asylum or have temporary protective status—

Mr. GROTHMAN. Of course you would not even know that.

Mr. JOHNSTON. [continuing.] Through CBP One.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Next mayor, Mayor Johnson, I think from Chicago, what do you think? Should we have any immigration law in this country, or should anybody who comes here just be able to stay here?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do support the bipartisan legislation that was passed out of the Senate for comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Well, no, that is not answering the question. Right now, people are breaking the law. Do you believe the United States should have an immigration law? As far as I know, every country in the world has an immigration law—maybe there is one outlier or something—and we have laws in the United States. Do you believe if people come here and break the law that they should be escorted out, or do you believe they just get to stay here forever?

Mr. JOHNSON. Our immigration system is broken. We have not had a comprehensive immigration reform since 1986.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. May I answer fully?

Chairman COMER. Yes. His time has expired, but feel free to answer.

Ms. WU. OK.

Chairman COMER. Do you want Mayor Wu to answer your question or are you fair?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Yes, she—

Chairman COMER. OK. Yes, yes. Go ahead.

Ms. WU. Yes. Thank you, Congressman. Yes, cities everywhere clearly need an immigration law that has secure borders, comprehensive and consistent compassionate pathways to residency and citizenship, resources to adjudicate the complexities of the law, and at the same time, I do not support mass deportation. That would be devastating for our economy, and there are millions of people who are running our small businesses, going to our schools—

Chairman COMER. OK. Thank you. The Chair recognizes, and I must add, I do not think anyone is calling for mass deportation, but the Chair recognizes Mr. Garcia from California.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Well, thanks, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank all of our witnesses for being here today.

Before I came to Congress, I was the Mayor of Long Beach, California for 8 years. It is a diverse city of about half a million people, so I appreciate the work that mayors do. As Mayor, I signed the Long Beach Values Act to protect all of our residents, including immigrants and undocumented residents. We set up justice funds to support people that were facing deportation, defending immigrants in court. These are policies that are strongly supported by my residents back home because they are good for all the community and make Long Beach safer.

Now, we also know that immigrants make our communities vibrant and thriving places to live. The facts are that sanctuary jurisdictions or jurisdictions that welcome immigrants are overwhelmingly safer than non-sanctuary jurisdictions. That is actually a fact. Immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are also less likely to be incarcerated or to commit crimes than native-born people. We know this to be true. Again, these are facts, and mayors have every right to pursue the policies that, you know, are best for your residents.

Now, the Trump Administration has threatened to prosecute some of the mayors on the panel today and force them to comply with his extremist agenda, but, however, Mayor Adams, you are in a different position. You, of course, are already facing serious criminal charges, and, Mayor Adams, I assume that you are not going to commit perjury today. And I do believe, though, that you have an enormous amount of issues facing you ahead of you, and it means your criminal charges are absolutely relevant to us today: bribery, wire fraud, willfully and knowingly conspiring to commit offenses against the United States. Mayor Adams, you, of course, deny these corruption charges against you. Is that correct?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, Congressman.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Now, I understand that you are proven innocent unless you are guilty, but you also have, sir, a trust problem. Four of your deputy mayors have resigned. Now, this is serious, and Republican prosecutors agree that the evidence against you is ironclad, yet Trump's DOJ moved to drop these charges.

[Poster.]

Mr. GARCIA. Now, I want to be just really clear and show this here. Now, look at how the Trump-appointed acting U.S. Attorney who was prosecuting you described it: "Because the law does not support a dismissal and because I am confident that Adams com-

mitted the crimes with which he is charged, I cannot agree to seek a dismissal." Now, this is a conservative Republican who resigned when Donald Trump pressured her to drop the charges, and we know that the Trump Administration demanded that the charges be dropped, and this is key. They will be able to refile them against you, Mr. Mayor, at any time. I think, personally, that is why you sat next to the architect of family separation on Fox and Friends.

Now, Tom Homan sat next to you and said the following, "Getting on Rikers Island is step one. We are working on some other things that we do not really want to talk about on open air because the city council will be putting roadblocks up on us. The Mayor and me have a commitment to several other things." Now, this was you, of course, and Mr. Homan, the architect of family separation. This is also incredibly concerning, Mr. Mayor. You sat next to him, you smiled, you badmouthed your own city council. Now, Mr. Mayor, we have a right to know if the Trump Administration has actually coerced you into agreeing to anything, and, Mayor Adams, I also want to be very clear, are you selling out New Yorkers to save yourself from prosecution?

Mr. ADAMS. There is no deal, no quid pro quo, and I did nothing wrong, and anything dealing with this case had a deference to Judge Ho, who is now addressing it. I am going to refer to his actions.

Mr. GARCIA. Well, Mr. Mayor, it appears, to me at least, that you are selling New Yorkers out. It appears that you are working with Tom Homan, who is clearly focused on family separation and deportations, and harming New Yorkers and others across the country. Now, every other mayor on this panel is pursuing legal and effective policies that benefit our residents and their communities. Their policies actually uphold public safety. Now, I personally agree with majority of New Yorkers and think, Mr. Mayor, that you should resign. You should do the right thing. You should step down and resign today, and with that, I yield back.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would my friend yield?

Mr. GARCIA. I yield.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Mayor, I want to be really clear. Were you pressured in exchange for the dropping and dismissal of criminal charges in your indictment to cooperate with the Trump Administration on all fronts with respect to immigration? Did any such conversation take place?

Mr. ADAMS. I think I was extremely clear.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I cannot hear you, sir.

Mr. ADAMS. I think I was extremely clear: no quid pro quo, no agreement. I did nothing wrong, but serve the people of New York City.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend for yielding.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Cloud from Texas.

Mr. CLOUD. Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, witnesses for being here.

You know, we are indeed a Nation of immigrants. I have to look no further than my own children who are the inheritance of both my ancestors who got here in the 1600s with William Penn or my wife who got here when we got married. I think that is really what

this Nation is about, but you are not here today because of legal immigration. You are here because of illegal migrants who have been sent to our country. In your opening statements, there was a deft linguistic shell game that you played to try to conflate legal immigration with people who are coming here illegally, and we are savvy to that.

You are here because each of you, with the exception Mr. Adams, have said in some form or fashion that you will not honor ICE detainees; in other words, that when you have people in custody and ICE says we need to come arrest that person because they are here illegally, that we will not honor that. That is why you are here. No one is asking you to go round up criminal aliens. We are asking you to take people who are already in your custody and hand them over to legal Federal law enforcement.

Now, what this does is it saves U.S. taxpayer money. It keeps from a greater presence of ICE and Federal law enforcement in your communities because if you are releasing them, it takes more people, as Chairman Jordan mentioned, to go in and to re-arrest that person and it puts the lives of law enforcement in danger. This used to be a bipartisan issue. As a matter of fact, groups like the Cato Institute called President Obama the deporter-in-chief.

And Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit for the record a Cato article. "President Obama: Deporter-in-Chief," is the title of it.

So why, we have to ask, is suddenly the left not embracing policies that Obama supported. We can look to last night where it seems to be Trump derangement syndrome, where the left could not seem to applaud kids fighting cancer, a First Lady and accomplished immigrant in her own rights, where traditionally we have applauded and recognized and honored the families for their sacrifice. This is the President's issue and they are kind of along for the ride. It was odd, I thought, that they applauded sending more money to the Ukraine, but not peace for Ukraine. And so, it brings us back to why we are here, and why this is a partisan issue all of a sudden, it boggles the mind.

Now, Mayor Johnson, you seem to want to talk about Texas. So, I am from Texas. Let us talk about Texas. First of all, have you been to the Southern border?

Mr. JOHNSON. I have been to Texas, but I have not been exactly to the Southern border.

Mr. CLOUD. OK. You seem to talk about Governor Abbott and sending buses to your city. Now, I can understand the concern with that, but I will also let you know that Texas did not ask for the Biden Administration to open the borders and send in exponential amount of people that have affected your city into our state, and you should know that no one forced them to go to your city. The reason they selected your city is because you have said it is a sanctuary city. Everyone was asked where they wanted to go before they got on the bus. No one asked them or told them or forced them to get on the bus. They did it of their own free will, and they were sent to your city because of your stated claim to be a sanctuary city.

Now, one thing I could tell you, having toured the facilities, is that I have been to those facilities under the Biden Administration where there was a map on the wall, and you could see the migrants

kind of pointing out which city they wanted to go to. And I can also tell you from having been through the immigration process with my wife, there is a difference between people coming here legally—I have been at the ceremony where the people are crying with tears as they take the oath of citizenship to come to this country. It is far different than people coming across our border, waving the flags, not trying to assimilate into the United States' culture, and sometimes bringing crime into our communities. This is an issue.

Now, each mayor, I want to ask you, one of the issues recently is how much FEMA dollars have gone to support migrants in hotel rooms in your communities. Mayor Adams, do you know how many FEMA dollars is spent in your city?

Mr. ADAMS. Eighty million dollars, and I have been to the border, and I saw those maps pointed to New York.

Mr. CLOUD. Thank you. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. I know we do have some Federal dollars. I have to get back to you on the exact amount. It seems—

Mr. CLOUD. It is roughly \$32 million, Mayor, \$38 million. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do not have the exact numbers.

Mr. CLOUD. It is \$32 million. Mayor?

Ms. WU. I do not have the number either. I would love to know.

Mr. CLOUD. Twenty-nine million dollars. So understandably, citizens are concerned about their taxpayer dollars that are supposed to be going to disaster relief for them and their communities going to illegal aliens. Do you agree, each of you—yes or no question; I only have a couple seconds—do you recognize that it is against the law to harbor criminal aliens?

Chairman COMER. The gentlemen's time has expired, but please, please answer the question. Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, meaning Federal law, correct.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do recognize that, and we do not do that.

Mr. JOHNSON. The city of Chicago does not harbor criminals.

Ms. WU. Yes, we follow the laws.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I would ask to enter into the record two articles, one talking about President Trump putting mass deportations to the heart of his campaign during the campaign, and just last night, "Trump Vows to Use U.S. Military for Mass Deportations."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so order.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank the Chair.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Frost from Florida.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, the year is 1969. My abuela, Zenaida, my grandma, Yeya, gets a call, and her, my mother; Maritza, my aunt; Sandra, and my grandpa, Pepe; have to go to a plane within 24 hours because they have been approved to come to the United States. They came here as refugees in 1969 during the freedom flights from Cuba for their new life in accordance with the promise of this Nation. ICE arrested hundreds of U.S. citizens during Trump's first term. Again, in the last few weeks, ICE has detained Native Americans, a teenage girl from

Nicaragua, Puerto Ricans, a Puerto Rican military veteran, all legal residents, but all who fit the description. I bet someone like my grandma would have fit the description, too, maybe even myself.

Trump's border czar went on TV and raged about Americans studying up on their constitutional rights during interactions with ICE agents. It was one of the most despicable things I have seen, and the question is, why is he so upset that people know their constitutional rights to the point where this Administration has moved to try to intimidate Members of Congress for trying to educate their constituents to know their rights? Why don't they want people to know their rights? Well, because if we know what our rights are, we will also know when Trump tries to take them away.

Mr. Bier, why are such outbursts from this Administration alarming as threats to our rights and liberties?

Mr. BIER. Well, you think about what we have heard about detainer requests. I have documented over 155 U.S. citizens who have been targeted by detainer requests, and they want to say we are going to just take the discretion away from state and local governments over detainer requests, even in the case where someone is clearly a U.S. citizen, here is my birth certificate. Does not matter, they are going to disregard it, and so, yes, I am well aware of the threat this Administration poses to constitutional rights.

Mr. FROST. So, from what we saw the last few weeks, should American citizens, should people with legal permanent residence in this country be also scared of this mass deportation campaign for themselves and their own children?

Mr. BIER. Oh, absolutely. The birthright citizenship order is the most egregious, but that does not stop there. They want to take away people's citizenship and people's rights regardless whether they are citizens or not.

Mr. FROST. Thank you. Mayor Wu, Boston has been named the ninth best city for quality of life in the entire country. Congratulations.

Ms. WU. I would not argue with that.

Mr. FROST. OK. If Trump succeeds in forcing you to redirect your city's budget and personnel to help with ICE raids and this mass deportation campaign, how would that affect quality of life for your people?

Ms. WU. First, that is against the laws in Boston and in Massachusetts, but I have heard from so many community members, including residents who are immigrants who are citizens, that they are terrified. And that means when people do not feel comfortable reaching out to call 9-1-1 when they need help, when survivors of domestic violence do not feel comfortable reporting or giving information, it makes all of us less safe, even those who are not immigrants.

Mr. FROST. This culture of fear is bad for the safety of our people. Donald Trump's immigration raids are also traumatizing and destabilizing, of course all Americans, but especially children and kids. Being a kid in America is hard enough—making good grades, going through more school shooter drills and fire drills—and now Trump wants to send armed ICE agents into their classrooms to rip children from the school desk as they are trying to learn. Mayor

Johnston, my colleagues are laughing about that. I do not find that funny. What would a school day be like for a kid in your city when ICE suddenly bangs down on the door and abruptly grabs their teacher or one of their friends?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. I was a teacher and I was a school principal before I did this job, so I knew that our school was often the safest place that kids came, and they knew, there, they could learn, they could get support, they get access to services. And many of our kids come from mixed-status families. They do not know their status. They do not know their mom's status or their dad's status. So, I have had families before who have pulled their kids out of school, kids who were citizens because they were worried that somehow their kids were in danger because they did not know who was being taken. And so, for us, the fastest way to make a city unsafe is to have kids not feel safe in their own schools.

Mr. FROST. See, they want everybody to live in fear of undocumented people. That is what they want to do. But I will tell you, when I am in my district and I do roundtables, I have done them with kids in elementary school, and I ask them what they want us to do. They want us to ban assault weapons. They say what they are actually scared of is being shot to death and dying in their schools. And because of actions that the Democratic administration took, the Biden Administration, with Congress, gun violence has gone down in Denver 24 percent, 25 percent in Chicago, 40 percent down, homicides, in Boston. Gun violence went up 45 percent under Trump. So, when they are in charge, more people die. When they are in charge, we are actually less safe. And I think that is an important thing that we all have to keep in mind as they try to scare us in terms of immigrants who are living in this country. Thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Palmer from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the witnesses for being here. I just want to respond about crimes committed by people here illegally. Every crime committed by someone in the United States illegally is a crime that would not have been committed. Laken Riley, Ruby Garcia, Rachel Morin, Jocelyn Nungaray, the woman set on fire in the New York subway—these are all assaults, rapes, murders, and other crimes that would not have taken the lives of these people if those people were not here illegally. They were given safe harbor.

Now, I want to ask you something. You all took an oath of office. Mr. Adams, did you swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I do.

Mr. PALMER. How about you, Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir, I did.

Mr. PALMER. How about you, Mayor? The other Mayor Johnston.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution of Illinois.

Mr. PALMER. OK. And, Mayor, you did?

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. PALMER. Are you familiar with the Supremacy Clause, any of you?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir, I am.

Mr. PALMER. OK. Then under the Supremacy Clause, you understand that the laws of the United States take precedent over the laws of Colorado, over the laws of Illinois, over the laws of Massachusetts, and your cities. Do you understand that?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir, I do.

Mr. PALMER. But when you declared your cities sanctuary cities, you did so illegally. Do you understand that?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Respectfully, sir, I would disagree with that. We follow every single law.

Mr. PALMER. You are disagreeing with the law. It is against the law to give sanctuary to people who have committed felonies, and it is a felony to cross the border illegally.

Mr. JOHNSTON. There is no——

Mr. PALMER. You gave sanctuary to people who are here illegally. You violated your oath to uphold the Constitution. Because of the Supremacy Clause, the laws of the United States take preference, but you did not do that.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. There is no part of our city law that violates Federal law, no part of the practices or services we provided that violate Federal law.

Mr. PALMER. Did you personally violate the law then by giving sanctuary? Somebody gave these people sanctuary. The city of Boston was declared a sanctuary city by you, Mayor.

Ms. WU. Being a sanctuary city, as you describe it, or being a city, as we describe it, that is home for everyone, it means that if you commit a crime, you are held accountable, regardless of immigration status.

Mr. PALMER. When you give safe harbor to people who are here illegally, and when you interfere with the officers of the law who are there to even remove people that you know have committed crimes, you have violated your oath of office. You have committed a crime.

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand why we have not been discussing obstruction of justice. I mean, get real about this. We have a problem in the country with the people who have come here illegally, and I just gave you a few names of people who have been raped and murdered. There are numerous others. There is a whole organization established called Remembrance to remember the people who have been assaulted, raped, murdered in this country because certain cities, certain officials decided to give sanctuary to people who came here illegally and committed these crimes. It goes all the way back to Kate Steinle, San Francisco, shot by someone who was here illegally. She would still be alive today. She died in the arms of her father. So, again, I want to know if you understand the supremacy clause, that the laws of the United States are supreme over whatever your opinions might be of what the laws are.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Sir, I do recognize that. We do follow that. I want to clarify that we actively, aggressively pursue any known criminal in the city, and we actually partner with Federal Government to do that. If there is someone with a criminal warrant, we are searching for them. We have Federal task forces we are partners of to break up gang activity. We do that for drug trafficking, we

do that on armed robberies, so we are in partnership with the Federal Government on many issues around the city.

Mr. PALMER. Mayor Adams is being attacked because he has agreed to cooperate with Federal officials to uphold the laws of the United States. I have not heard any of you in defense of that.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We are absolutely upholding the laws of the United States. We do it every day, and we will continue to do it.

Mr. PALMER. I just think we need to do a deeper dive into this, Mr. Chairman. If it were up to me, I mean, I would be considering referring charges. I think we have got a problem here when we decide that there are some laws that we will obey and some laws that we will not. I do not care who it is, Republican, Democrat. I do not care what office you hold, we need to abide by the laws passed by the United States.

Ms. CROCKETT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALMER. No, I will not yield. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the time. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. We are going to have two more questioners, then we are going to have to take a break at the request of the witnesses, a 15-minute break, maybe 20 if we need that. But the Chair recognizes Mr. Casar, and after him, then Mr. Higgins, and we will proceed with the break, but the Chair recognizes Mr. Casar.

Mr. CASAR. Good morning.

Mr. ADAMS. Good morning.

Ms. WU. Good morning.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Good morning.

Mr. CASAR. Mayor Wu, can you tell us a little bit, just maybe 20 seconds, about how your administration has helped address unemployment, especially amongst youth in your city which we know is a risk when we have high levels of young people unemployed.

Ms. WU. We made a commitment, our mayor's guarantee, that any young person in the Boston Public Schools who wanted a paid summer job would get one, and we fulfilled that with the partnership of businesses and companies and organizations throughout the city. Record numbers participating.

Mr. CASAR. Thank you, Mayor Wu. Mayor Johnson, can you tell us a little bit about measures your office has implemented to address the root causes of violence in Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you for that question, yes. So, first of all, it is great to report that violence is down in the city of Chicago, and it has gone down since I have been in office as a result of a couple of measures. One, we have reopened three mental health clinics because we are in a very severe mental health crisis. We have also increased the number of youth employment. We have hired almost 28,000 young people for last summer. This year, we have an opportunity to hire up to 29,000 young people. We have also built more homes. Just last year, we have appropriated \$11 billion, 37,000 construction jobs, in the works for almost 10,000 more affordable units. And we have promoted and hired 200 detectives to increase trust between community and law enforcement to solve the crimes that do occur in our city.

Mr. CASAR. Thank you so much. Mayors, I want to thank you for the hard work you are doing every single day. Just in 40 seconds

you have described building tens of thousands of homes for people that need them, hiring detectives to solve cold cases, building community trust to reduce violence, hiring people to do incredible mental health work, and reducing the youth unemployment rate. That is so much more than what the Republican Majority can ever describe having ideas about, and that is why they have dragged you before us today. They want to point the finger at you because they have no plan on how to address housing, no plan on how to reduce costs, no plan on how to actually reduce violence in our communities. In fact, maybe some of the only plans they have would be to make those issues worse.

And I know that you all as mayors are doing one of the hardest jobs in this country every single day. You are serving your communities honorably, and they do not want the American people to hear about how Boston has drastically dropped your unemployment rate. They do not want the American people to hear about how Chicago is dropping the rate of violence in the city. But our job is to make sure the American people actually hear the truth, and the truth is that you are pairing a law enforcement response along with a mental health response and a housing response and a jobs response to what is going on in your cities, and that is so critical.

Republicans, on the other hand here, are going back to the same old tactic, which is to say, find a vulnerable group of people and let us blame them for everything that we can. Anything bad that happens, let us go try to point the finger at our political opponents, or at a vulnerable person, or at a person of color from a faraway place, and that does not actually solve real issues for the American people. Republicans and their big boss donors blame immigrants for low wages because they do not want the American people to see the Republican plan to dismantle the NLRB to dismantle unions and to never pass a bill raising wages for American workers.

They blame immigrants for housing costs because the Republicans are dismantling the Department of Housing and Urban Development and stripping affordable housing funding from this country. They want to distract from the \$8 million a day that people like Elon Musk get in Federal contracts while they attack hard-working immigrants, and while they attack officials that are actually just trying to do their jobs.

Mayor Johnson, you have a limited number, I suppose, of jail cells in Cook County and a limited number of law enforcement resources. Is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct, and I do not have jurisdiction over Cook County jails.

Mr. CASAR. And you want to make sure that when somebody in the city of Chicago calls 9-1-1, that they get an appropriate response. Is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. CASAR. And so, what I have been hearing all morning from my Republican colleagues is they want the Federal Government to go tell the city of Denver or the city of Boston or the city of Chicago, they want the Federal Government to be able to call you and take over your police resources or take over your county's jail resources, and you do not even represent the county, for whatever case they might come up with, whether the person is dangerous or

not. Instead of having cities determine if somebody is dangerous and needs to be held, instead of having cities say we want to make sure if you have an emergency that we get somebody to you and do not just send out our police to a call that may not be a priority just because somebody in the Federal Government wants to go after somebody with no criminal background and that is not a threat.

And so, with that, Mr. Chairman, right before I yield back, I just want to thank people that are involved in local government, city council members, neighborhood associations, mayors, the people who keep our cities running. You deserve our support in making your cities more safe. You deserve our support—

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. CASAR [continuing]. Addressing housing instead of hearings like this. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Higgins from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let us clarify for America. Mayor Adams, Mayor Johnson, Mayor Johnston, and Mayor Wu, are you here today under the advice of counsel, and do you have counsel present? Yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. I want to understand the question. Are we—

Mr. HIGGINS. Are you here today under the advice of counsel, and do you have counsel present?

Mr. ADAMS. Do I have counsel present? I am here because we were requested to appear.

Mr. HIGGINS. Did you have counsel prior to your appearance?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, we did.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you. This is not a trap question. We just want to clarify.

Mr. ADAMS. OK.

Mr. HIGGINS. You are here under the advice of counsel. Do you have counsel present?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Counsel present. Here because I was invited.

Mr. HIGGINS. Did you get counsel before your trip here?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do have counsel. I was here—

Mr. HIGGINS. You get advice from your counsel?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS. OK. Then you are under the advice of counsel. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you. I just want to clarify for America—these mayors are all sanctuary city mayors, but the narrative is no longer comfortable because 3 months ago we were at the tail end of 4 years of millions and millions of illegals coming into our country. It was out of control. The only thing that has happened since then is we had an election in November. And now we are not pulling the curtain back. We have ripped the curtain from the rods. We have revealed to America just how fast we could have secured our border if you had an executive that was willing to enforce the law.

So, now we are paying attention to our municipalities, and every one of them is lawyered up. They have changed their narrative. We got example after example. The Mayor of Chicago, “we must lead

with and live by the promise of a sanctuary city.” The Mayor of Denver willing to go to jail in defense of sanctuary city policy. The list goes on. But the policies of these mayors and our previous President have consequences—real-life consequences.

I have a family here today, Mr. Chairman, who lost their beautiful loved one. This young man was killed by an illegal immigrant in Texas that never should have been in our country. He will never be here to raise his daughter, Ann Marie, to love and cherish and honor and uphold his beautiful wife, Olivia. And you mayors have responsibility not just to your communities and the citizens you swore to serve, but, by extension, to the entire republic.

Let me clarify. I was a cop for a long time. To honor the jurisdictional authority of another law enforcement agency, you do it every day in your city, guaranteed every one of you. If you have an inmate in your city on city charges and that inmate has a felony warrant from a neighboring county or another county in your state, and that county contacts your city while you have that inmate in detention and ask you to hold them for them to come pick it up upon release, guaranteed you release that inmate to the county over or to your state police. But you are not doing it for ICE, and ICE is responsible to remove millions of criminal, hard-edged criminal, illegals from our country, and we have had enough. America is fed up with this betrayal of oath, and you will be held accountable. One of you said you are willing to go to jail. We might give you that opportunity, good mayor.

One of my colleagues mentioned the children. I always want to talk of the children, separation of children, and at any given time in America, there are 750,000 to 850,000 American citizen parents of minor children incarcerated in our country. If you commit a felony in America, you get arrested and prosecuted and convicted and incarcerated, you can expect to be separated from your children. But let me say there is a sunset to that separation because when you do your time, you will be released. You can return to your family. This young man will never return to his family, and he should have never been removed from his family if we had a President and heads of our municipalities that were willing to uphold the Federal law that exists. America is moving into a new era of enforcement of our own laws. Welcome to it. Mr. Chairman, I yield.

Chairman COMER. Very good.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. All right.

Ms. CROCKETT. This is an article from *Wired*. It is February 18, 2025: “U.S. funding cuts are helping criminals get away with child abuse and human trafficking. Services supporting victims of online child exploitation and trafficking”——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you so much.

Chairman COMER. At the request of the witnesses, the Committee will take a 20-minute break. Pursuant to the previous order, the Chair declares the Committee in recess for 20 minutes.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. The Committee will come back to order.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Lee from Pennsylvania for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, we have heard a lot of accusations and sensationalism thrown around here today, which is not new for this Committee, but I do think we need to be clear about what we are really talking about today and what the so-called sanctuary city policies actually mean. What Republicans are calling sanctuary cities simply means that a city or a state is not going to do the job of ICE for them. That is it.

Republicans are acting like there is like a mythical barrier that keeps ICE completely out of cities. If you are listening to Fox News, they make it seem like there are police at the borders of Chicago keeping ICE agents out, and that is simply not the case. Republicans want every town, city, state to dedicate their limited resources to entering what is called a 287(g) agreement with ICE to either do their enforcement work on the ground or hold people in custody for an additional 48 hours on detainers. That is 48 hours beyond the lawful detention.

To be clear, that is illegal. In more than 700 counties in at least nine states, there are policies or court decisions limiting these ICE detainers as it is such a blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment. And when people's Fourth Amendment rights are violated, it is the cities, not ICE, who face civil lawsuits. As a reminder to Republicans, the Fourth Amendment is the one against unlawful searches and seizures. Just last year, New York City's Department of Corrections had to pay \$92.5 million in a settlement to those they unlawfully detained for ICE. Republicans are putting these mayors between a rock and a hard place, and the reason that they are doing this is because Trump is trying to get them to do illegal things. If they work for ICE, they risk violating their own residents' constitutional rights and opening themselves up to costly litigation, but if they do not do Trump's bidding, they are being threatened with losing Federal funding.

Today's hearing is nothing more than a shakedown against the mayors of some of our Nation's biggest cities and a part of Trump's ongoing anti-city crusade. In Trump's America, if you disagree with his priorities, then you lose Federal dollars. Just last week, Donald Trump actually called city leaders who oppose his cruel policies sick politicians. Just a few days before that, his border czar, Tom Homan threatened that he would be bringing hell on the city of Boston. Mayor Wu, what do you think about these threats against Boston and their attempts to force you to enact policies that are against the very things your constituents voted for?

Ms. WU. The laws are most important, and the safety of our residents are most important. And what I hear from all of our residents across every one of our neighborhoods is that, in fact, undermining the trust is what would make our city less safe. And so, we need everyone to feel secure in their communities. Like, they can reach out, they can call 9-1-1 when they need help, and in our city, those laws actually help Boston police solve crimes.

Ms. LEE. Thank you. Mr. Bier, question for you. I had always thought that my Republican colleagues were strong supporters of state and local sovereignty and were against intrusion from the Federal Government. Do you think this lawsuit seems consistent with that position?

Mr. BIER. Oh, absolutely not. If you look at the Supreme Court precedent on this, it came from a gun control law that said that state and local governments had to cooperate with the Federal Government on gun control. The Supreme Court said that is unconstitutional. Not a single Member on this side, I believe, would be against that Supreme Court decision.

Ms. LEE. There is nothing illegal about protecting people's constitutional rights and due process education and equal treatment under the law, but it is illegal for the Federal Government to withhold Federal dollars that these cities' taxpayer dollars have gone toward. Mayor Johnson, Chicago ranks as one of the largest cities in the U.S. and has the third largest metropolitan economy, boasting a GDP of \$860 million. This makes it one of the most economically diverse cities in the Nation, correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Ms. LEE. Would it be fair to say that your city generates billions in taxpayer revenue and that the average taxpayer in Chicago and Illinois contributes more than around \$20,000 in Federal income taxes, which is more than \$1,310 above the national average?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is absolutely correct.

Ms. LEE. But can we conclude that Chicago residents pay significantly more in taxes than they receive in return, contributing at least \$5 in taxes for every \$1 they get back in Federal support?

Mr. JOHNSON. More than our fair share.

Ms. LEE. Thank you. Only nine states have taxpayers that contribute more to the Federal Government than they receive. All four of our mayors are from states on that list, yet Republicans are saying that they should lose that money because they do not agree with their dear leader. Trump and Republicans are attempting to take money from blue cities and blue states and give them to their red states. Republicans too often demonize blue areas and cities that are the very areas that are keeping the economy going. The attacks we have heard on mayors today are not only shameful, they are dangerous capitulations to the impulses of this President, who is trying to expand executive power in nearly every direction.

I would like to thank our Mayors Wu, Johnson, and Johnston, for coming in today, having the strength of courage to stand up to this Administration. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, Mayor Adams—sorry, over here—you have agreed today that New York City is a sanctuary city. Is that right?

Mr. ADAMS. Based on the definitions, and, Congressman, there is no uniform definition of that, but yes.

Mr. BIGGS. Right, but that is what you have proclaimed. Mayor Johnston, you have previously also declared that you are a sanctuary city. Mayor Johnson, you said that Chicago must lead with and live by the promise to be a sanctuary city. Mayor Wu, you said Boston police and other departments cannot cooperate with ICE when it comes to detaining on civil warrants. Of course, I do not know what Mayor Johnston would define it, but I do know that the Honorable Mayor Johnston from Chicago, they call theirs a Wel-

coming City ordinance, and we have got Ms. Wu, Mayor Wu, who has referred to hers as a safe city. That is really interesting to me.

So, when you are a sanctuary city, you put limits on how much you are willing to cooperate with Federal agencies' efforts to remove illegal aliens, and your policies then contravene Federal law. You just do. Under Title 8 of the U.S. Code, it says, "A Federal, state, or local government entity or official may not prohibit or in any way restrict any government entity or official from sending to or receiving from the Immigration Naturalization Service any information regarding citizenship or immigration status of any individual."

So, when I look at your guys' ordinances, and I got them all up here, and they are really interesting stuff, in Denver, I think you testified previously that you rely on the statutory section—am I right—of the state statute, so let us just review this. There is a distinction, and some of you have made that. Mayor Johnston of Chicago made this repeatedly, and Mayor Wu of Boston did. There is a distinction between criminal warrant, and you say we cooperate on criminal warrant, but there are two levels of cooperation at least. There is a communication level, and there is a passing the person off. That is one level of the criminal, but the civil, the civil level, this is what I want to talk about for a second because all of these ordinances proscribe communication and transfer of someone where there is a civil warrant.

Now, I know that all of you understand that a removal order is a civil order, and that means none of you and none of your agencies within your municipalities are communicating or passing over someone where there is an ICE removal detainer. So, I do not care how many times, 1,226 or whatever it was in 7 years, I do not care how many times you do it, but if you are not doing it for civil orders, then you are allowing people who have a removal order, who had due process because that is how you get it, that is how you get a removal order, you are allowing them to stay in the country. You are in violation of this law right here. You are. You are in violation of that law right there, and you have got to start realizing what your criminal culpability is on that, and that is really what we are talking about here.

So, you do not think that is harboring, perhaps, but let us take a look at that next statute, please, that next Federal statute: "In conducting investigations and hearings, immigration officers and administrative law judges shall have reasonable access to examine evidence of any person or entity being investigated." If you are holding someone back, even if it is under a civil warrant because that is what you said you are not going to participate in, and you are preventing access to that person or evidence, you are in violation of this. You have criminal culpability under this, and you will notice there is no mens rea requirement here. This is it. Every one of you is exposed to criminal culpability here. That is the reality of it.

Let us do the next one: "Any person who, knowing that a person is an alien, knowing or in reckless disregard,"—now you got a culpable mens rea here—"of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or attempts to conceal, harbor,

or shield from detection such alien in any place.” You will notice it does not make distinction that all of you all want to make of criminal warrants versus civil. You are all in violation of all three of these statutes. You got criminal culpability. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Randall from Washington State.

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to our witnesses for taking the time to be here today. You know, I represent the Northwest corner of the country, though I did happily live in Boston for 10 years, safely, and Washington State is proudly home to more than 1 million immigrants. We know in Washington that our communities, like yours, are stronger because of immigrants. We are fed because of immigrants. We are able to take public transportation because of the work of immigrants. We are able to work on building the affordable housing that we need because of immigrants. We receive quality healthcare because of immigrants. But this Administration, as we see over and over and over, is more concerned with deporting families than supporting families. Their actions are rooted in hatred and fear and deliberate misunderstanding. They say they want to lower costs, but what their actions show us is the opposite.

Immigrants drive our economy, and this Administration’s mass deportations have disrupted small businesses, wreaked havoc on our communities, all while families see their grocery bills continue to rise and worry about their health care being ripped away. My constituents are scared. They are writing to us that they are afraid to go out in public, send their kids to school, go to the grocery store without two other members of their family or their neighbors with them. There are dozens of families making emergency plans to make sure someone is legally designated to take care of their children if they are detained or deported, and in fact, our Governor had to create additional policy to ensure that kids are not left alone when their parents disappear.

We have heard from beet farmers and wheat growers and florists, Christmas tree farms, grocers, and salal harvesters that their businesses cannot continue without the support of immigrants. We know that there is a huge economic impact to our families and our communities. And Mayor Adams, per your testimony in 2021 on immigrant New Yorkers, you stated that including those who are undocumented, immigrants in New York paid billions of dollars in taxes and contributed billions more in spending power to the New York economy. Is that true?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes.

Ms. RANDALL. Yes. Thank you. So, one can imagine if this Administration continues its mass deportation plans in cities across the country, including New York, it would have a significant impact on all our economies. Mr. Bier, can you speak to what the economic impacts of mass deportation would mean for the U.S. economy?

Mr. BIER. Absolutely. It would be devastating. You are looking at an instant recession. If it was, you know, some magic wand you could wave to get rid of all these people like they want, that would be about a seven-percent drop in GDP. That is well into the trillions of dollars in lost production of goods and services that benefit

Americans. And when you really think about it, when it comes to the cities, right, it is not equally distributed across the country. It is really these cities and some others that are going to be overwhelmingly impacted. So, those neighborhoods, you are looking at a death spiral of economic activity when you remove so much of the population. And of course, we talk about just the people who are undocumented, but their children, their spouses, all those people are going to be affected by mass deportation.

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you so much. And, Mr. Chair, with unanimous consent, I would like to enter this *New York Times* article, "Frustration Grows Inside the White House Over Pace of Deportations."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you so much. And, you know, this Committee has been very interested in uncovering waste, fraud, and abuse, and I would like to draw our attention to the ASMR deportation flight that the Administration touted on their official social media channels. While previous deportation flights cost for about 10½ hours, \$47,000, this military flight that was commandeered from its mission of national security to take folks, who were in detention centers already, to a stopover in Guantanamo cost us \$299,250 for the same flight. Folks in my community who are stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord are being diverted from their essential missions to go to Guantanamo to be layover stewardesses for this plan that is just for clicks. It is just to continue to stir up media. It is just to deliver on a promise that the President made and that he is worried that he will be accused of letting his base down if he does not carry out. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace from South Carolina.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the mayors here today are actively working to harm the American people you represent. You all have blood on your hands. I am going to ask a series of yes or no questions today, and I would like to remind all of you, you are under oath. I only want a yes or no to my questions.

My first question, do you acknowledge breaking into our country as a crime? Mayor Adams, yes or no, do you acknowledge breaking into our country as a crime?

Mr. ADAMS. I acknowledge—

Ms. MACE. Yes or no?

Mr. ADAMS. I acknowledge—

Ms. MACE. OK, Honorable Johnston. He is not going to answer the question. Yes or no, is breaking into our country against the law? Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. It depends on how you cross the border.

Ms. MACE. OK.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Some—

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnson, yes or no?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Comprehensive immigration—

Ms. MACE. OK, that is not an answer. Mayor Wu?

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. Reform policies are what is necessary in this moment.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Wu, do you have a better answer than these gentlemen before you? Yes or no.

Ms. WU. Yes.

Ms. MACE. OK. Do you believe it is acceptable for illegals who commit heinous crimes be released back into the public instead of being detained and deported? Mayor Adams, yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. Anyone who breaks a crime should be detained——

Ms. MACE. Yes or no? This is not hard. Yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. Anyone that break a crime should be detained.

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor, yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. They should be deported.

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor?

Mr. JOHNSON. Any individual that——

Ms. MACE. Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Causes harm——

Ms. MACE. Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. And breaks the law——

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor Wu?

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Should be held accountable.

Ms. MACE. This is why you have a six-percent approval rating because you suck at answering questions. Mayor Wu, yes or no.

Ms. WU. Anyone who is a public safety threat should be prosecuted.

Ms. MACE. All right. I have my next question. When an illegal alien rapes a woman, do you believe you are on the right side of history? Mayor Adams, yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. Say that question again.

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor Johnston, when an illegal alien rapes a woman, do you believe you are on the right side of history? Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I will charge and prosecute them.

Ms. MACE. Yes or no. OK. You said you would go to jail, didn't you?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I will charge and prosecute everyone who is——

Ms. MACE. For harboring illegal aliens or something. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. Could you repeat your question, please?

Ms. MACE. When an illegal alien rapes a woman, do you believe you are on the right side of history?

Mr. JOHNSON. Could you clarify that question?

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor Wu, yes or no.

Ms. WU. No. Rape is obviously horrible.

Ms. MACE. Then why are you letting rapists back out onto the streets of Boston?

Ms. WU. That is not true.

Ms. MACE. OK.

Ms. WU. That is not what is happening in Boston.

Ms. MACE. When an illegal alien molests a kid, molests an underage kid, do you pat yourself on the back for being compassionate? Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. It is despicable, and he should be arrested.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I prosecute folks that commit crimes like that.

Ms. MACE. You guys let them out on the streets. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. We arrest violent criminals in the city of Chicago.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. We investigate, arrest, and prosecute.

Ms. MACE. You guys do not sound very confident today. Would your city honor an ICE detainer on an illegal alien who rapes kids if one was issued today? Mayor Adams, yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. In conformance with law, we will honor detainers.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. If there is a criminal warrant, we will help them pick them up. If there is no criminal warrant, we will honor a notification request.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. Criminal warrants, we always cooperate with Federal agents with a criminal warrant.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. Get a criminal warrant, we will enforce.

Ms. MACE. A criminal warrant. I am talking about an ICE detainer on an individual who is here illegal who rapes kids. Do you all hate Donald Trump more than you love your country? Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. I respect my President. I respect my country.

Ms. MACE. Yes or no?

Mr. ADAMS. And I respect——

Ms. MACE. You are having the hardest time today. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I love my country.

Ms. MACE. Yes or no?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I love my country.

Ms. MACE. OK. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. As a son of a pastor, I love everyone and this country.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. I love my country and my city.

Ms. MACE. Are you all willing to go to jail for violating Federal law? Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. I am not going to violate Federal law, so I do not have to worry about that.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not violate Federal law either.

Ms. MACE. You do not violate Federal law?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not violate Federal law.

Ms. MACE. Is it violating Federal law if you do not honor detainer requests from ICE?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Absolutely not. In fact, the statute Congressman Biggs shared, we explicitly follow. The statute says you cannot prohibit city employees from sharing information about someone's status with the government. We do not prohibit that.

Ms. MACE. Do you love illegal aliens more than you love your fellow countrymen?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I love all the residents of the city and county.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Johnson, are you willing to go to jail for violating Federal law?

Mr. JOHNSON. The city of Chicago complies with all laws.

Ms. MACE. Oh, I highly doubt that. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. We are not violating Federal law.

Ms. MACE. Mayor Wu, I have a last couple of questions for you. Do you believe that ICE arresting a child rapist “threatens everyone’s safety?” Yes or no.

Ms. WU. No.

Ms. MACE. Does ICE arresting a murderous MS-13 gang member threaten everyone’s safety? Yes or no.

Ms. WU. No.

[Poster]

Ms. MACE. I would like to hold up this quote of you where you say, “ICE’s efforts actually threaten the safety of everyone.” Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. You are a hypocrite. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Subramanyam.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record this article, and I will do this as a survivor of sexual violence myself. This is from Courts, March 2018——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. Data from Texas shows that U.S.-born——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered. We have put it in the record.

Ms. PRESSLEY. But I have not entered it.

Chairman COMER. You have what?

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I have several articles, I need to enter them. Let me just go ahead with what the articles are, what they speak to.

Chairman COMER. What is the next article?

Ms. PRESSLEY. Let me proceed. Data from Texas shows that U.S. born Americans——

Chairman COMER. No, no, that is not——

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. Commit more rape——

Chairman COMER. Ms. Pressley, I——

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. And murder than immigrants.

Chairman COMER. Listen, this trend of——

Ms. PRESSLEY. Data from Texas shows that U.S.-born Americans commit more rape——

Chairman COMER [continuing]. You all trying to get thrown out of committees so you can get on MSNBC is going to end. We are not going to put up with it. The Chair recognizes Mr. Subramanyam.

Ms. PRESSLEY. This is my procedural right as a Member of this Committee——

Chairman COMER. You can go——

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. To enter documents into the record.

Chairman COMER. You can go with Mr. Frost and Mr. Green.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I am reclaiming my time.

Chairman COMER. That is what you want.

Ms. PRESSLEY. You do not get to——

Chairman COMER. No, no. Ms. Pressley.

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. How I recite the articles for the record.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Pressley, I have been very accommodating to you. Mr. Subramanyam. Start the clock. Start the clock. No, I do not——

Ms. PRESSLEY. And I take particular umbrage as a survivor of sexual violence. I will enter into the record.

Chairman COMER. Order, order.

Ms. PRESSLEY. This is my right. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. No, no. It is Mr. Subramanyam's time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. No, you know the process of unanimous consent. You are not recognized.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I have several articles to enter into the record.

Chairman COMER. Mr. Subramanyam, if you do not go, we are going to recognize Mr. Timmons.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to bring up a bill that is going to be before the Floor, H.R. 32, a bill that would basically take away Federal grants if the Administration thinks you are a "sanctuary city," which, by the way, is not even very well defined. I am not even sure from reading the bill whether your cities are even sanctuary cities to begin with. I think that is why that question may have been difficult for you to answer.

But I think what is been very interesting to hear is how well you have been able to integrate and welcome immigrants into your communities, into your city's economies, and making the best out of a difficult situation. I find that very impressive. But I wonder, to the mayors here, you know, Mr. Johnston, if you took away Federal grants, how would that affect public safety of your city? Would that make your city more safe or less safe, if we took away Federal grants from your city?

Mr. JOHNSTON. It would dramatically weaken public safety. I mean, we would not be able to repair bridges that are falling apart. It means we would not be able to put kids in preschool or give veterans medical care. It would be catastrophic.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Thank you. Mayor Johnson, the same question.

Mr. JOHNSON. It would certainly undermine all of the investments that we have made thus far. Since I have been mayor, we have, you know——

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Public safety.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Provided \$20 billion of new investments that contribute to the overall safety of the city of Chicago.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Yes. Mayor Wu, same question. Would this make your city of Boston more safe or less safe?

Ms. WU. Withdrawing Federal funds would make us less safe. Education makes us more safe, housing makes us more safe, and we rely on those funds.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Let us take Mayor Johnston. How did many of the immigrants come to your city? You mentioned they came from Texas. Is that right?

Mr. JOHNSTON. That is correct, Congressman. They came on buses sent from Texas, mostly from El Paso.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I feel like we have the wrong people in the room today. We have mayors of cities that are trying to do their best with the situation that they have, and then we have Gov-

ernors in Texas and Florida who are busing folks up to your cities. And so, you are trying to make the best out of this situation, but somehow, they are trying to make our immigration system worse, in essence, because they are taking the folks that come over to their states and they are spreading them across the country, and you are just trying to deal with that situation. Would you characterize it as that, Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir. We are just trying to manage the crisis in front of us, which is families being dropped off on our city streets in the winter with no clothes. Our calling is to make sure they are safe.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. And how would the Trump Administration's funding freezes and cuts, would they undermine public safety in your city, Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. They could dramatically undermine public safety in our city, everything—

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mayor Johnson, same question.

Mr. JOHNSON. It certainly will undermine community safety if—

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mayor Wu, same question.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. The Federal Government undermines the investments in people of Chicago.

Ms. WU. It would undermine our safety, too.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. So, we are trying to make your cities more safe, but there is a bill here in the name of making your cities more safe actually makes your cities less safe. Would you agree with that, Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir, I would.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mayor Johnson, same question.

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mayor Wu, same question.

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. And I think this bill is actually, in a way, extortion because you are basically trying to take away funding from a city if they do not do what the Administration wants you to do, but, you know, let us talk about extortion for a minute. Mayor Adams, I think everyone's a little bit concerned about the timeline of events that has led to your case being dropped, and so Mayor Adams, did you meet with Tom Homan on December 12 of last year?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I did.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Did President Trump say publicly that he considered pardoning you 4 days after that meeting? Yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. I do not recall what the President said in regard to that meeting.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Well, he did. In January, did you meet with President Trump at Mar-a-Lago? Yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I did.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. In this meeting, did you talk about immigration enforcement with the President?

Mr. ADAMS. We talked about immigration in general.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. What did you talk about when it comes to immigration?

Mr. ADAMS. Just how important it is to secure the border, and they were able to do so. We saw a 90-percent decrease, and I see that on my streets every day.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Did you talk about your pending case with the DOJ?

Mr. ADAMS. No, I did not.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. So, the case did not come up. Have you ever talked about your case with the DOJ with the President?

Mr. ADAMS. No more than what you heard him on the trail say that he thought it was important.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I have not heard much. Tell me, have you ever talked about your case in the DOJ with the President?

Mr. ADAMS. As I indicated previously, I am going to say it again, this case is in front of Judge Ho, and out of deference to him, he is a——

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Have you ever talked about your case with anyone in the Trump Administration?

Mr. ADAMS. I am going to say this again. This case is in front of Judge Ho, and out of deference to Judge Ho, he is going to determine the outcome of this case.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. That is not answering the question. I am going to ask you one more time. Have you ever talked about this case with anyone in the Trump Administration?

Mr. ADAMS. This case is in front of Judge Ho, and out of deference to Judge Ho, Judge Ho is going to decide the outcome of this case.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I think Mayor Adams is not answering the question because he probably has, and I think there is a pretty clear timeline here that indicates that a case is being dropped in the name of trying to appease the President, who seems to be OK with what is going on. Look, we can talk about the policy, but I think there is a bigger problem here of public extortion and almost an endorsement of this extortion, and it is becoming the norm for this Administration. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Chair recognizes Mr. Timmons from South Carolina.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chairman, before you do, I have a unanimous consent request, please.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Stansbury, you are recognized.

Ms. STANSBURY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have four articles I would like to enter into the record, titled: "The Mythical Tie Between Immigration and Crime," "Undocumented Immigrants Half as Likely to Be Arrested for Violent Crimes," "Immigrants Significantly Less Likely to Commit Crimes," and one titled, "Showing Data About U.S.-Born Citizens More Likely to Commit Murder." And, Mr. Chairman, I do ask that you do respect my colleagues' on this side of the aisle parliamentary rights with regard to UCs.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Your unanimous consents are put into the record, and only titles are required, and once you start filibustering, you become out of order.

Ms. STANSBURY. I am not filibustering.

Chairman COMER. I am just saying the last——

Ms. STANSBURY. I am asking that you——

Chairman COMER [continuing]. Member on your side was filibustering.

Ms. STANSBURY. She was not. She has more articles to enter.

Chairman COMER. Yes, she was.

Mr. TIMMONS. And now you are filibustering.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Timmons from South Carolina.

Mr. TIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to speak directly to all four of the mayors. You all did the best you could with bad situations. You did. The former President let in—I do not even know what number to use—some places use 8 million, some people use 16, 20, whatever the number is. And so, each of you had an influx of illegal immigrants into your cities, and you have Federal, state, and local statutes that you have to deal with and an untenable situation was created. I want to go one by one. Mayor Adams, how many illegal immigrants were present in New York City in the last 4 years? How many people did you have to deal with?

Mr. ADAMS. Two hundred thirty thousand.

Mr. TIMMONS. All right. And that is 230,000 people that were using your limited resources that American citizens are entitled to, but you were actually required, under local ordinance or under state law, to provide services to them. They are not supposed to be here. They are not supposed to be here because we have borders. Borders are supposed to matter. Mayor Johnston, how many illegal immigrants did you have to deal with over the last 4 years?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. We had 42,000 newcomers arrive over the last—

Mr. TIMMONS. Forty-two thousand? Mayor Johnson, how many illegal immigrants did you have to deal with over the last 4 years?

Mr. JOHNSON. Over the last 4 years, there were roughly 50,000 asylum seekers bussed from the state of Texas to the city of Chicago.

Mr. TIMMONS. And you know why that Texas did that? Because 10, 12, 15 million people were in Texas and they had to deal with the same problem you did, and they thought it was appropriate that everyone should have to share this burden. Mayor Wu, how many did Boston have over the last 4 years?

Ms. WU. We do not ask about immigration status in giving state services—

Mr. TIMMONS. How many people—

Ms. WU [continuing]. So, I do not have that number.

Mr. TIMMONS. OK. Well, we will say at least tens of thousands. So, all of you have limited resources, limited tax dollars to spend to serve your community, and there are people that have a disproportionate need, and you have obligations to serve them more if they are struggling, if they do not have income, if they are jobless. So, you have limited resources, and all of you had this problem. And we have been saying for the last 4 years that this is all because Joe Biden and his policies were allowing lawlessness at our Southern border, which allowed millions of people into this country. Mayor Johnston, did you say anything to the Biden Administration? Did you say we are struggling, we cannot make ends

meet, we cannot serve our citizens because of your open Southern border. Did you, Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, Congressman. I did reach out to the Biden Administration about that.

Mr. TIMMONS. Did you publicly address this? Did you ever challenge them and say this is ridiculous, secure the Southern border?

Mr. JOHNSTON. What we focused on, sir, was the biggest challenge we were facing was folks needed the right to work. They came to our city—

Mr. TIMMONS. I could not find anything where you told the Biden Administration they are wrong for their border policy. Mayor Johnson, did you publicly attack President Biden in the last 4 years because he let millions of people into this country and it hurt your constituents? Did you publicly attack him for his policies?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, I publicly called for—

Mr. TIMMONS. Did you say secure the damn border? No, you did not.

Mr. JOHNSON. I publicly called for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. TIMMONS. OK. We will get to that in a second.

Mr. JOHNSON. And that did not happen.

Mr. TIMMONS. Did you ever publicly attack the open-border policies of the previous Administration?

Ms. WU. Congressman, in fact, we hosted the former Secretary of DHS in Boston so that he could see the impact—

Mr. TIMMONS. To talk about how we need legislation, I am sure. Mayor Adams, did you ever publicly attack President Biden for his open border policy?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, in addition to having \$7 billion out of our taxpayers.

Mr. TIMMONS. Did you see what his Administration did to political opponents? Did you see what they did to President Trump? I mean, I guess you are standing up for your people. I admire that. For the last 4 years, I heard how Congress needed to spend tens of billions of dollars to secure the Southern border. We had to change policies. We had to do all this nonsense. We did not need to do any of that. We just needed a new President. Last month we had the lowest number of border crossings in decades, and I can promise you this, that is going to continue because our President has always had the ability to stop this, and the only one of you that stood up to the previous Administration was under investigation shortly thereafter. Weird how that happens.

We are turning the page here. Going forward, each of you need to cooperate, to the fullest extent of your ability, with President Trump, with ICE, with all Federal laws to make sure that you can secure your people and stop spending billions of taxpayer dollars on people that do not deserve it. Your constituents deserve those resources, not the people that enter this country illegally. With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Ansari from Arizona.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you, Mr. Chair. President Trump has talked a big game about how he wants to allegedly make our cities and communities safer. He says he wants to get violent criminals off

the streets, and he thinks that mass deportations are the way to do it. He sent ICE and Border Patrol agents after our Native-American communities, parents and children and law-abiding American citizens who are targeted simply because of the color of their skin or the language that they are speaking. The chaos and the fear that this has instilled pits neighbor against neighbor, creates more distrust in law enforcement, and puts us all in danger. Mayor Wu, first of all, congratulations on your baby. What have you been hearing from communities in Boston? Are people fearful of engaging with law enforcement?

Ms. WU. In Boston, because our laws are what they are, we have very strong relationships with our community, and that is why we have been able to continue making progress on being the safest major city in the Nation. But we do hear that people are afraid of the Federal Government, and it is including people who are immigrants, but also U.S. citizens. That fear is widespread.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you. Perhaps most disturbing, President Trump has diverted critical Homeland Security Investigation agents to work on immigration enforcement. That means they are no longer investigating violent crimes like human trafficking, child pornography, and the flow of fentanyl in our communities, putting our entire country at greater risk. That means fewer violent criminals, pedophiles, and drug runners being apprehended, not more. Once again, Republicans are making life easier for criminals at the expense of victims, actually making our communities less safe. Mr. Bier, question for you, what effect do you think that assigning DHS agents to deportations is going to have on public safety?

Mr. BIER. Well, it has an extremely negative effect, and it is not just limited to DHS. He is pulling in FBI, ATF, DEA. They are all being diverted off their primary missions to crack down on criminal gangs and criminal organizations in the United States, so it is not just DHS. It is every criminal agency in the U.S. Government is being diverted to mass deportation right now.

Ms. ANSARI. The Phoenix police chief has stated, "We work with our Federal partners all the time to work on criminal issues, not civil immigration issues. That will continue to be the stance of the Phoenix Police Department." I can tell you, during my time on the Phoenix City Council, I served on the Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee. I heard constantly from our police force that they are understaffed and need to focus their resources on violent crime. But President Trump has also tried to force municipalities to divert their law enforcement personnel to aid the mass deportations. Diverting city police to deportations would mean that our officers are spending less time investigating murders, rapes, and robberies.

Now I want to shift to the economy. Mayor Wu, would you agree that local leaders and public safety officials who hear directly from constituents about public safety know better what your city needs to focus on than the White House does? And also, are you worried about ICE raids and the impact that it will have for businesses and economic prosperity?

Ms. WU. Yes, our local community knows best, and we can tell you, in Boston, over our history, it has not been the word of Presidents or kings or Presidents who think they are kings that set what happens. It is our residents.

Ms. ANSARI. And, Mr. Bier, can you tell us more on what the economic impacts, like food prices and housing costs, of mass deportations would be and how this could affect a city like Phoenix?

Mr. BIER. About half the cost of the fruits and vegetables in your grocery store is coming from the labor of immigrants and other workers at our farms, so it is an extremely important component of our agricultural production in the United States. If you look at where these people have gone, they have gone into the sectors where there is no work visa. There is no legal immigration option for employers to hire in these sectors. That is why we had so many people come because of the labor needs of the United States.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you so much. I truly want to thank the mayors for being here and taking on these ridiculous attacks on our local officials. You know what is best for your communities and the people that you represent. You know better than Donald Trump. You know better than Tom Homan. You know better than Stephen Miller. So, thank you so much.

And finally, I would like to request unanimous consent to enter into the record, first, a report published by the American Immigration Council titled, "Mass Deportation: Devastating Costs to America, Its Budget and Economy;" and second, a Center for American Progress report titled, "Trump's Rash Immigration Actions Place Cruelty and Spectacle Above Security."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you. I yield back to the Ranking Member.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Donalds from Florida.

Mr. DONALDS. Thank you, Chairman. This is my third term on the Oversight Committee. We have been talking about illegal immigration and oversight the entire time. I remember we had a group of this Committee that went down to the El Paso section of the border. This was back in February-March 2021. And during that time period, we were at one of the holding centers, and there were these busses that were coming to the detention facility, and they were picking up 30 kids, 50 kids, at random, walking out of the facility. And when I went over to question the bus driver that was transporting these kids, border agents told me, as a Member of Congress, that you are not allowed to question the bus driver, and of course, people knowing me, I did not take no for an answer, and I repeated the question, and I was told that this bus of children was leaving El Paso and going to San Diego.

And so, what was occurring under the Biden Administration is that they were bussing unaccompanied minors all across the United States for one reason and one reason only, and that was because they did not want the press to see the pictures of kids in cages. They did not want to see our borders being overrun. They wanted to disperse that problem all through the United States. That is the reckless history of illegal immigration under Joe Biden and the Democrat Party. Mayor Johnston of Denver.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. DONALDS. You lamented earlier that there were 10 to 11 busses coming per day to your city. Did you ever talk to Joe Biden about why this was happening to your community?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. I both reached out to Governor Abbott from Texas. He did not respond, and I did——

Mr. DONALDS. Why would you reach out to Governor Abbott of Texas when it is Joe Biden, the former Commander in Chief, that opened up our borders? Why did you not talk to him?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Well, our busses directly were being sent from Governor Abbott in Texas, so that was why we reached out to say we are happy to collaborate on a coordinated entry system. We understand no one state or no one city should bear the entire brunt of this, but let us collaborate. But I did——

Mr. DONALDS. So, I am glad you said that because that brings me to my next point. Governor Abbott and Governor DeSantis, when they started moving illegal aliens out of their states, who were bearing the brunt of what Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were doing, and they had sent them to Denver, they sent them to Chicago, they sent them to New York, they sent them to Martha's Vineyard, the reason why they did that is because you four could hide behind the realities of illegal immigration on border towns all through our country and on cities and states who did not want to see illegal immigration, but did not have the political representation to go to the White House. And only when it showed up on your doorstep, did you get upset.

Mayor Johnston, coming back to you. How much did your city spend on illegal immigration? Do you have a round number?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Over the last couple years on all newcomers, whatever their status was, it is around \$79 million since 2022.

Mr. DONALDS. Seventy-nine million dollars. Mayor Johnson, Chicago, how much has the city of Chicago spent on illegal immigration?

Mr. JOHNSON. If you are referring to the 2022 up to 2024 of the busses coming from Texas, roughly the same percentage of the state of Texas, about 1 percent of our overall budget.

Mr. DONALDS. What is that, because we do not have the city's budget in front of me. Numbers?

Mr. JOHNSON. It is one percent, and if you want the actual calculation, we can make sure someone——

Mr. DONALDS. You are the mayor. You do not have the math in front of you?

Mr. JOHNSON. It is one percent of the overall budget over the last year 4 years——

Mr. DONALDS. All right. That is why you are failing, Mayor.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Which is the same number that was sent from us from the state of Texas.

Mr. DONALDS. Mayor Adams, how much did the city of New York actually spend on legal immigration? Mayor Johnson, I already asked you. You do not have a hard number, and if you do not have a hard number, you are not running your city well. Mayor Adams, how much did the city of New York actually spend on illegal immigration?

Mr. ADAMS. Six-point-nine billion dollars of taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. DONALDS. Six-point-nine billion dollars of taxpayer money on a problem that was fostered on the American people. Mayor Wu, in the city of Boston, how much did you spend?

Ms. WU. We do not ask about immigration status in delivering citizens services, so we do not have that number.

Mr. DONALDS. You do not ask about how much money the city of Boston has spent on illegal immigration? Are you out of your mind?

Ms. WU. We do not distinguish between immigration status—

Mr. DONALDS. Do you manage your budget or not, Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU [continuing]. As part of our city policies. That is how we keep our city safe.

Mr. DONALDS. Mayor Wu, do you manage your budget or not?

Ms. WU. We have the numbers to prove it. I manage my budget. I have a AAA bond rating dating back 10 years, city of Boston budget.

Mr. DONALDS. So, to the city of Boston, just understand that your mayor does not care how much of your resources she has spent on people who are not citizens of the city of Boston.

Ms. WU. The city of Boston is sick of having people outside Boston telling us—

Mr. DONALD. I am reclaiming my time. Mr. Bier, I have a question for you because I understand Cato's perspective when it comes to illegal immigration. I understand that the Cato Institute for a long time has had a standard of actually having open immigration into the United States, generally speaking. I do not want to get into specifics.

Mr. BIER. We support legal immigration. We want immigration to be legal.

Mr. DONALD. So, let me ask you this question because one of the great libertarians of the modern era, Milton Friedman, famously said, "You can either have open borders or a welfare state, but you have to choose". Mr. Bier, what do you choose?

Mr. BIER. Milton Friedman said he wanted to allow illegal immigration to continue. I disagree with Milton Friedman's position on that. We should have legal immigration and build a wall around the welfare state, not around the country. That is in the best interest of taxpayers.

Mr. DONALDS. And I would argue that under the current system where you have sanctuary cities popping up, it is not possible to build that wall, so America has to choose.

Mr. BIER. You can. Absolutely, we can.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Bier, you are done. America has to choose between securing our Nation or protecting the taxpayer. I choose secure the Nation. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. Bell from Missouri.

Mr. BELL. Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the 1980s, there was the war on drugs that did not go so well. We essentially created classes of criminals for people, citizens who just needed help, and I will not recount that entire history, but I do not think that we realize the error of our ways until it impacted more affluent communities, particularly with the opioid epidemic. And so now, Republicans have begun a new campaign, a war on immigrants. And while Republicans and Democrats both recognize the need to strengthen our borders instead of sitting down and actually fixing the border situation, as has been alluded to, or actually we did that, but then after

supporting it, Republicans voted against it after their boss told them not to, which really would have been a win for the American people.

So, as a former prosecutor, I recognize policing and community relationships go hand-in-hand. You have to have them in order to be effective with law enforcement and to get bad people off the streets who are not going to commit a crime in front of a police officer. Oftentimes, it is our people in our communities who can help get those people off the street by sharing and cooperating with law enforcement, but that starts with trust. And understanding, as a former prosecutor, limited resources, we have to be considerate of how we utilize those resources. And so, my first question, Mr. Bier, and I am going to go quick because I want to try to get to you all, why will requiring a local police department to honor extrajudicial ICE detainees or risk losing Federal funding make our cities less safe?

Mr. BIER. Well, you are taking resources away from whatever the higher priority is. So, if you are talking about carrying out mass deportation and having state and local police detain people who are not public safety threats, then you are talking about in New York City, they are spending \$1,500 a day on a bed. So, that is \$1,500 taken away from other public safety priorities.

Mr. BELL. And, Mayor Wu, and congratulations again as well.

Ms. WU. Thank you.

Mr. BELL. And first, you are welcome, for St. Louis, born and bred, Jayson Tatum, you are welcome.

Ms. WU. Thank you. Thank you.

Mr. BELL. Why is it in Boston's best interest to make sure people who are experiencing domestic violence or victims of violent crime feel comfortable coming forward to law enforcement with the knowledge that local police are not reporting them to ICE?

Ms. WU. We need those who have information, we need those who are victims and survivors of crime to know that they can come forward and get the help that they need, and when that happens, we keep everyone safer.

Mr. BELL. Absolutely. And many law enforcement agencies have articulated that their primary responsibility is to keep communities safe by focusing on violent crime and public safety threats. However, deputizing requires officers to take on Federal immigration duties, diverting resources and personnel from their core mission. So, when cities use their discretion, and, Mr. Bier, this is a quick question for you, do you believe that this additional burden makes communities safer, or does it risk overextending local departments at the expense of addressing serious crimes?

Mr. BIER. I think states are best positioned to answer that question. It certainly can, if you are imposing a mandate that is distracting from their public safety mission. And it is interesting to note that the Majority's bill on this, H.R. 32, has an exception written in there for witnesses and victims of crimes, if you do not report them, it is OK under that bill, except no one is walking around with a victim or witness badge on them.

Mr. BELL. And I have got a—

Mr. BIER. So, when a police shows up and responds to a call, they do not know who is a witness or victim. So, the idea that, you

know, you can just cordon that off and put that to the side, does not hold up.

Mr. BELL. I appreciate that. I am just short on time. And, Mayor Johnson, I have two quick questions for you, and you can give them the weight that you decide to give them. First, who has more World Championships, the Cardinals or the Cubs? Mayor Adams, I do not want you in on that one. Can you tell us about the ways in which Chicago cooperates with Federal law enforcement?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes. Thank you for that question. Violent crime in the city of Chicago is down. It continues to go down on my leadership because of our investments, having trust between community and police. Local police has attributed to that, and our local police department allies and cooperates with Federal agents around human trafficking, drug trafficking, getting guns off the street, getting gangs off the streets of the city of Chicago, and it has worked. And the first Black First Lady in the history of Chicago is a Cardinals' fan. Shout out to Hazelwood East.

Mr. BELL. Hey, that is my school. Thank you. I yield back to the Ranking Member.

Mr. ADAMS. And it is the Yankees.

Mr. BELL. No questions for you, Mr. Adams.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mrs. Luna from Florida.

Mrs. LUNA. Mayor Wu, does the Boston Trust Act restrict communication with Federal immigration authorities regarding individuals' immigration status. Yes or no.

Ms. WU. We do not collect immigration status in law enforcement.

Mrs. LUNA. I just like to point out, and, Mr. Chairman, if I could enter the Boston Trust Act into the record. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you. Let us see, Section 4(A)(a), "A law enforcement official and employment of the city department, agency, or commission shall not," and then, "(a) inquire of an individual on his or her immigration status." Under Title 8 U.S. Code, Subsection 1373 stipulates that local governments cannot prohibit or restrict communication with Federal immigration authorities regarding individuals' immigration status. So, your enforcement of this act is in direct violation of that statute. Can you please confirm?

Ms. WU. That is not the truth.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, ma'am. That is the U.S. Code. I do not know about you, but U.S. Code does not lie. Mayor Johnston—

Ms. WU. We do not ask about immigration status, and that is what makes us the safest city.

Mrs. LUNA. I am not talking to you anymore. Next question, Mayor Johnston, you said in your testimony that the first step you took after illegal aliens arrived was to provide them with housing. Is that correct? Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Folks that were on the streets freezing to death, we gave access to shelter? Yes, we did.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you. Not to be rude here, but you have a good understanding of what the definition of "harboring" is, correct?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do.

Mrs. LUNA. OK. For those that might not, “harboring” means to knowingly or recklessly provide shelter or place to stay for an illegal alien, and according to Title 8 of U.S. Code, Subsection 1324, that is also a Federal crime. Just to be clear, did you also say that you would be willing to go to jail to stop deportation efforts?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I did say that I would be willing to stand up for all of our residents, and the context was that was the point at which the Administration was threatening to deploy the U.S. military to streets of our cities to pull kids out of schools and churches.

Mrs. LUNA. OK. Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSTON. So, we were worried about that.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, Mr. Johnston. Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record an article from CBS.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you. In this it says, “Johnston said earlier this week that he is willing to use civil disobedience, and if necessary, going to jail to stop deportations.” My final question would be for you, Mayor Johnson, do you believe that Chicago’s Welcoming City ordinance encourages illegal aliens to enter the United States, specifically into Chicago. Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSON. No.

Mrs. LUNA. OK. So, you do not believe that banning the transfer of individuals into ICE custody for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement encourages illegal immigration into Chicago, or how about agencies—sorry, 1 second—or agents not being able to stop, arrest, or detain individuals based solely on their immigration status or administrative warrants?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, we comply with all laws, local, state and Federal.

Mrs. LUNA. To me, after this line of questioning, it is very clear that these policies that you have all implicated are active and alive and well in your cities, are in direct violation with U.S. Title 8 Code Subsection 1324 and is a Federal offense. You all speak about a broken immigration system, and yet here you guys are aiding and abetting in that entire process. I want to be very clear about something. Open border policies, which is something that you guys are talking about, hurts people on both sides, meaning the people that are coming here illegally and then American citizens as well. I do not think you guys are bad people, but I think that you are ideologically misled, which is why, unfortunately, based on your responses, I am all going to be criminally referring you to the Department of Justice for investigation. And as soon as I leave here, these will be going over to Pam Bondi.

I am not doing that to an effort to bully you guys, but I do believe that your policies are hurting the American people, and you can make that known with the evidence that you can present the Department of Justice. But if you guys continue doing what you are doing, you are not going to help anyone. You are going to hurt more people, and that is exactly why I am tired of it, the American people are tired of it, and, Chairman, I yield my time.

Chairman COMER. Would you yield your last minute?

Mrs. LUNA. Yes, sir.

Chairman COMER. Mayor Adams, you were one of the first mayors in what the media refers to as a Blue City, typically, that came

out and raised concerns about the influx of illegals pouring into the city of New York. Could you answer the question what that did to New York City from a budgetary standpoint? Let us not even talk about crime or anything. Let us just talk about the burden on the citizens of New York City.

Mr. ADAMS. As I indicated, Mr. Chairman, we spent \$6.9 billion, and the long-term impact of that is extremely significant. After COVID, we had a large number of children who was chronically absent. We could have taken \$200 million of that and dealt with that. We have a real mental health crisis in our city. We could have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on that. And so, the long-term impact of spending \$6.9 billion is going to have serious ramifications on the future of New York City, so it is more than just what happened last year or this year. It is what is going to impact us long-term.

Chairman COMER. And I think that is one of the purposes of this hearing, to talk about the consequences from cities that have huge illegal alien populations. The Chair now recognizes Ms. Pressley from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mayor Wu, I am grateful for our longstanding partnership in public service. I am grateful to be your Congresswoman as well as your constituent.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Is your mic on?

Ms. PRESSLEY. Can I get that time back? All right.

Again, grateful for our longstanding partnership in public service, grateful to be your Congresswoman, and grateful to be your constituent. It is clear my colleagues across the aisle did not do their homework because the fears and division they are trying to project on to Boston are really the stuff of Fox News Fever Dreams. Our city is vibrant. Our city is diverse. Our city is beautiful. Mayor Wu, immigration is central to the economic success of Boston, is it not?

Ms. WU. Absolutely. All of our key industries, whether it is healthcare, life sciences, higher education, financial services, everything that we do depends on immigrant residents and the contributions that they make.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mayor. Well, immigration defines Boston. You know, for generations our city has been shaped by people who have endured incredible hardships to arrive at our shores seeking a better life. They drove taxis, opened restaurants, studied at our schools, built homes, repaired our roads and bridges, cared for patients, cleaned offices, built businesses, provided essential early education and childcare for our babies. There is no doubt immigration is essential to the success of Boston, but there is, in fact, a dark threat looming over this great city. That threat is the racist and xenophobic anti-immigrant policies coming from this Trump White House.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record this *Boston Globe* article titled, "They are Going to Deport us: Trump's Immigration Policies Prompt Some Children to Skip School."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mayor Wu, I have been speaking to principals and educators in Boston at various roundtables and town halls that I have convened, and the stories are heartbreaking. Elementary

school children are crying in their teachers' arms, fearful that they are going to lose their parents to cruel and unjust deportation raids.

Mayor Wu, last week I met with an esteemed doctor from a local Boston hospital who reported that follow-up appointments in her clinic have seen a 200 percent spike in no-shows and cancellations. Her assessment? Her patients are missing critical care, like dialysis, prenatal care and chemotherapy, because of a fear of immigration raids in our hospitals and healthcare settings. Mayor Wu, do you agree with this healthcare provider?

Ms. WU. Absolutely. We hear it from our shared constituents. People are afraid, and that is having huge impact on their daily lives when they are just trying to do right and be a good example for their kids as they pursue the American Dream.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record this article titled, "Fearful Amid ICE Crackdowns, Some Immigrants are Skipping Healthcare."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. So, here we have a man who thinks he is king, screaming anti-immigrant slurs from the Oval Office, and what has it done to make Boston safer? Nothing. Not a thing. But it has traumatized our kids, cost our elders their dialysis, delayed cancer patients' chemotherapy, and struck fear into the heart of hard-working people who not only contribute immensely to our city and our community, but whose labor and contributions are also essential to the very functions of daily life in our great city.

The Members of this Committee would be well served by learning from our esteemed Mayor, but a teach-in is not the charge of this Committee. I would remind my colleagues this Committee's purpose is oversight. The only person who has something to answer for is Donald Trump. He is singlehandedly decimating decades of economic progress, vilifying our immigrant neighbors, and disregarding the Constitution and basic decency daily. This man points to our most vulnerable, scapegoats them for every hardship, while he himself is actually the source of the hardship that the American people are experiencing.

My colleagues do not really care about criminality. If you really cared about criminality, you would do something about Elon Musk's power grab stealing our data. You would do something about efforts to defund the National Institutes of Health cancer research. If you really cared about criminality, you would do something about people that want to rob our babies of food. Make it make sense. My Republican colleagues across the aisle believe a 6-year-old from El Salvador who wants to go to school and a mom who fled violence in Haiti are the reason that the cost of eggs are too damn high. And your housing and gas will follow suit, surely because of these Donald Trump tariffs. The shameful Republican rip-off, slashing away basic government services to line the pockets of Donald Trump's buddies so they can buy toy yachts and rocket ships. It is a shame and a sham. America has a problem, and it is Donald Trump. If my colleagues really cared about criminality, they would do something about him.

I am grateful that the people of Boston and my Mayor stand with their neighbors from every walk of life. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Gill from Texas.

Mr. GILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on such an important topic. Mayor Johnson, I want to start with you. One of your first actions as Mayor was establishing a Deputy Mayor for immigrant, migrant and refugee rights. I want to ask you a series of questions. If you could answer with a yes or no answer, that would be great. First of all, do you support allowing illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses? Just yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSON. So, the city of Chicago has been a welcoming city for over 40 years as a policy.

Mr. GILL. I will take that as a "yes". Next question, do you—

Mr. JOHNSON. And that is the policy that we will hold to.

Mr. GILL. Do you support tax dollars subsidizing or paying for the healthcare of illegal aliens?

Mr. JOHNSON. I support investments in all residents and the people of Chicago, and that is what I do.

Mr. GILL. That is yes as well. Do you support free or reduced college for illegal aliens?

Mr. JOHNSON. Again, I support the investments of all residents and the people of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. I will take that as a "yes". Next question, do you support allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections?

Mr. JOHNSON. I am not over the jurisdiction of that type of law, but, again, I am committed to investing in all residents and the people of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. I will take that as a "yes". I have got an article from the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "Johnson proposed, among other things, that all residents, regardless of citizenship status, be able to vote for Chicago Board of Education members." Next question, your website states, and this is your campaign website, "I will not stop fighting until abortion access is completely secure for people all over the country." Yes or no, do you support taxpayer-funded abortions for illegal aliens?

Mr. JOHNSON. I support the reproductive rights of all people, all women.

Mr. GILL. I will take that as a "yes" as well. Your mayoral transition website mentions support for creating a Chicago Board of Education Non-Citizen Advisory Board. Again, yes or no, do you support appointing non-citizens to government advisory boards?

Mr. JOHNSON. I was invited here today to discuss a Welcoming City.

Mr. GILL. It is a yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSON. I was invited here to discuss Welcoming City.

Mr. GILL. This is a yes or no question.

Mr. JOHNSON. If you are interested in asking me questions about the Welcoming City—

Mr. GILL. You are not going to talk about that. I will take that as a "yes."

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. I am happy to answer those questions.

Mr. GILL. No, we are going to move on. As you know, President Trump, unlike the previous administration, has taken serious action to bring foreign criminal gangs to justice, to take our border back, and to restore public safety in our communities. He des-

ignated eight transnational criminal organizations and cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. These are groups like Tren de Aragua, MS-13, Sinaloa, some of the most grotesque and ruthless and brutal organizations in the world. You, as Mayor of a sanctuary city, have been virtually giving favors to illegal aliens. Apparently, you support an enormous amount of taxpayer resources going to them as well, but you yourself have also received a lot of gifts. And for those of you who do not know, Mayor Johnson has a secret gift room that is not given access to the public or for access to the Office of Inspector General. I would like to ask you a couple questions about that. Do you know everyone who has given you a gift since you became Mayor?

Mr. JOHNSON. The city of Chicago has had a policy for 40 years—

Mr. GILL. That is a yes or no question.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Where there are individuals that would like to give gifts to the city of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. No, I am reclaiming my time. I am going to take that as a “no.”

Mr. JOHNSON. And we do not accept those gifts. We receive them on behalf—

Mr. GILL. When did you become Mayor? No, I am going to reclaim my time here.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Of the city of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. You are not going to filibuster here. When did you become Mayor?

Mr. JOHNSON. I was elected Mayor of the city of Chicago in April 2023, and I was sworn in—

Mr. GILL. Got it. On June 12—

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. May 15 of 2023.

Mr. GILL. On June 12, 2023, you received Hugo Boss cufflinks and a personalized Mont Blanc pen. Do you know who gave you those?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, I did not receive those personally. The city of Chicago received them—

Mr. GILL. You received those on behalf of—

Mr. JOHNSON. That is right, on behalf of the city of Chicago. As every mayor—

Mr. GILL. No, I understand the difference.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. In the history of—

Mr. GILL. Do you know who—

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Chicago who has been provided gifts

Mr. GILL. Do you know who gave those to the city of Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. To the city of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. Do you know who gave those to the city of Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, again, on behalf of the city of Chicago, there are gifts—

Mr. GILL. It is a yes or no question.

Mr. JOHNSON. But I do not accept. Those are not my personal gifts.

Mr. GILL. So, you do not know?

Mr. JOHNSON. Those are the gifts of the city of Chicago.

Mr. GILL. On March 18, 2024—

Mr. JOHNSON. And that is why you are aware that they exist because they are within the law.

Mr. GILL. I am reclaiming my time here, sir. On March 18, 2024, you received a Gucci tote bag. Do you know who gave the city of Chicago that?

Mr. JOHNSON. Again, I was here and I was invited to respond—

Mr. GILL. I will also take that as a “no.”

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. To the questions around—

Mr. GILL. On March 19, 2024—

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Welcoming City. I am happy to answer any of those questions.

Mr. GILL [continuing]. The city of Chicago received a Givenchy bag, a Kate Spade purse, and Carrucci shoes. Do you know who gave the city of Chicago those?

Mr. JOHNSON. Again, I was brought here—

Mr. GILL. I will take that as “no.” I am reclaiming my time. Yes, sir, I am reclaiming my time.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. To respond on behalf of the city of Chicago on what a Welcoming City experience is.

Mr. GILL. This raises serious ethical concerns. You are providing an enormous amount of aid to illegal aliens, aiding and abetting criminals who have come into our country illegally, and you, yourself, are receiving an enormous amount of gifts, and you will not even tell us who they are coming from.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, time is up.

Mr. GILL. That raises serious ethical concern.

Mr. CONNOLLY. We have a 5-minute rule.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman’s time has—

Mr. GILL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to enter into the record the city of Chicago Office of Inspector General Advisory Concerning Gifts Accepted on Behalf of the City.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. GILL. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Ms. Tlaib for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mayor Adams, since we are on this conversation around oversight and some mis-claims here about corruption, I mean, do you agree, Mr. Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I hear you, Congresswoman.

Ms. TLAIB. Oh, OK. You were not looking at me. That is why. It is OK. I will speak louder if you want. Did you agree to a quid pro quo deal to enforce the Trump Administration’s cruel immigration policy in exchange for protection from the Federal corruption charges against you? And you are under oath, just as a reminder.

Mr. ADAMS. Congresswoman, there was no agreement, there was no quid pro quo, and I have done nothing wrong.

Ms. TLAIB. So, help me out here, though. So, the Trump official, Tom Homan, we all know who he is. He said, quote,—I am quoting him—“If he does not come through, I will be in his office up his butt.” Sorry, Chairman. “Saying, ‘Where the hell is the agreement we came to?’” You are accusing the Trump Administration for lying? Did they lie? They are lying then.

Mr. ADAMS. Mr. Homan and I both agreed we will fight dangerous criminals, and we never had any conversation about my case.

Ms. TLAIB. OK. So, Mayor Johnson and Johnston and—I am sorry, I cannot get the——

Mr. JOHNSTON. You can just call us Chicago and Denver.

Ms. TLAIB. There you go. This is really important. You know, as a child of immigrants, and I think many of my colleagues on that side of the aisle have beautiful, diverse communities as well. And one of the things that I know happens when we try to have local law enforcement and local city officials, I mean, they even want folks that work for our city treasury asking people for immigration status. That is what they would prefer. You know, is that racial profiling? I mean, what do you do? Like, you wait for somebody to come, they have an accent, maybe they wear a hijab, maybe they look a certain way. That is what they want you to do.

That is what they are asking you to do, by the way. They want you all to basically do the job of what the Federal Government should be doing in regard to passing really comprehensive immigration reform so families are not separated because right now, all they want to do is continue to talk about enforcement. Guess what? In the last 20 years, it did not work, did it? It is not working. So, one by one, if you can talk about that because I know my mother, who has been here for over 50 years, is carrying her U.S. passport for the first time in her life, and she is not traveling nowhere out of the country. But she is carrying it because she knows her beautiful accent—it is beautiful, I love it—and just so fearful of being stopped and being asked her immigration status. She knows she will be racially profiled, and she already feels unsafe in a community she lived in for over 50 years.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congresswoman. I would just agree. We do not think it is relevant to know someone's status when they come into a public library to check out a book, or if they come to the hospital for service, or if they come to register their child for school. The Constitution says you are entitled to an education. Our job is to provide it. So, we think that is unnecessary and it just scares people away.

Mr. TLAIB. Yes. Mayor?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes. Allowing local law enforcement in the city of Chicago to focus on city priorities as well as making sure that there is trust between our immigrant communities and all of our communities that——

Ms. TLAIB. Yes. I have worked on different violence cases as a former immigration attorney.

Mr. JOHNSON. Absolutely.

Ms. TLAIB. I am telling you this is deadly for women being abused. Deadly.

Mr. JOHNSON. It certainly engenders trust, and that is how we have——

Ms. TLAIB. Absolutely.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Driven crime down in the city of Chicago because of that trust.

Ms. TLAIB. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. Thank you, Congresswoman. Boston is proud to be the safest major city in the country, and we do not ask about immigration status when providing city services. We also are clear to all our residents that we do not care about immigration status when we hold people accountable for doing harm in the community as well.

Ms. TLAIB. Yes, because when I hear “sanctuary city,” I hear “anti-racial profiling.” I really do. I hear, like, OK, we are not here in the business of trying to enforce broken immigration laws that are inhumane, completely immoral right now. That is what I hear. And as a former immigration attorney, when I hear the story in Denver, and trust me, ICE is there waiting to pick them up. They sent six of them. Six of them could not take this guy that they are supposed to pick up does not make any sense to me because they are there. They are pretending they do not know that as a fact.

But one of the things that bothers me about all of this is the executive order of rescinding the sensitive locations. Why this is important? They basically want to do immigration enforcement and racial profiling and immigration enforcement that is race based. I am at the Canadian border in Detroit. Do you know the majority of people coming down undocumented is Canadian? But guess what? It still is the Brown folks that are overwhelming—ACLU did a study—is overwhelmingly the ones being targeted, detained, and deported.

And so, for me, the sensitive locations is hospitals, schools, funerals. This was all a policy in place to protect us from having our communities overpoliced and militarized. Can you talk about the impact of that? And I have 22 more seconds because he went over—

Mr. FALLON. No, because his time was—

Ms. TLAIB. He went over 22 more seconds.

Mr. FALLON. He spoke over him. That was not true.

Ms. TLAIB. No, I did not. Chairman, I never spoke over him.

Mr. FALLON. No, not you. The Mayor spoke over Brandon.

Ms. TLAIB. It does not matter. He went over 22 seconds.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead and ask your question.

Ms. TLAIB. I did want them to answer the question about the sensitive locations because this is something we all should be scared of, because pastors are calling me because they are talking about churches possibly having ICE agents show up at churches.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I can just say, Congresswoman, our fastest-growing church in Denver went from 700 folks in the parishion to 5 after that announcement.

Chairman COMER. All right. Very good.

Ms. TLAIB. Thank you. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Yes. The Chair recognizes Mr. Fallon from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. All right. Forty-three seconds. That is a deal. All right. Mr. Chairman, thank you. Coming into this very important hearing, I suspected that Democrats would claim illegal immigrants pose no danger and would frame them as a sympathetic victim class and completely glaze over the tremendous financial burden that mass unlawful migration places on the shoulders of the American taxpayers. And furthermore, they would completely ig-

nore the grave dangers that violent criminal illegals pose to all Americans, the Democrats would use spin and deflection and woke, wonderment, and delusion, and some would even blatantly lie, and as they so often do, the left did not disappoint.

The first claim that we heard was there were ICE agents ripping adorable children off adorable school busses. It was a myth and it never happened. And what was the source of this Democratic claim? One letter written by one superintendent in a country of 13,000 school districts, and that letter said that this may happen. Well, I may start a business with flying monkeys delivering new fruit salads. I may. But it never happened. In the case in point, it was Alice ISD. And Mr. Chairman, there was another letter that Alice ISD sent, and I am going to quote it. It said, "We have not had any Customs and Border Patrol enter or board busses, nor do we have any knowledge of it happening here or in any other school district." It was a spin, it was deflection, and it was a lie.

Now, the most important thing that any elected official should focus on is to keep our citizens safe. There is no greater calling. Mayor Johnson, is Chicago a safe city?

Mr. JOHNSON. We are a safer city since I have been in office. Crime is down——

Mr. FALLON. A safer city. OK. Sir——

Mr. JOHNSON. Crime is down——

Mr. FALLON. Sir, do you know that——

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Over 20 percent just this year alone.

Mr. FALLON. Sir, no. Mr. Chairman, I reclaim my time. You are not going to overtalk me. Brandon, he was very nice and he is a freshman. I am not going to do that. I find it interesting that you say Chicago is safe. You have a higher murder rate than Haiti, and the Biden Administration put up a travel advisory saying to Americans do not go to Haiti. I hope that the Trump Administration puts up a travel advisory saying do not go to Chicago. In fact, Haiti has a murder rate of 18.02 percent. Chicago has a murder rate of 18.26 percent. I can see why, sir, you have a 14-percent approval rating. Mayor Wu, you are a Democrat, yes?

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. FALLON. OK. You supported the Biden-Harris Administration politically?

Ms. WU. I did.

Mr. FALLON. Yes. OK. Do you think that they took border security seriously?

Ms. WU. I think Washington failed on immigration and continues to do so.

Mr. FALLON. Let me ask that again. Did you think the Biden Administration took border security seriously?

Ms. WU. I think Washington failed——

Mr. FALLON. It is a yes or no. It is not a trick question, mayor.

Ms. WU. I think there is responsibility across this entire——

Mr. FALLON. Come on. We need to get out of here. Yes or no, did Biden-Harris do a good job? You were supporting Kamala Harris, so apparently, you must have thought she was OK on it.

Ms. WU. Washington has failed.

Mr. FALLON. OK. So, you are not going to answer.

Ms. WU. And we are cleaning up the pieces at city——

Mr. FALLON. Well, here is the thing. We can deal with delusion—no, Mayor, I am going to reclaim my time. We can deal with delusion or we can deal with data, so let us talk about some data. I find this interesting. Under the 12 years that Barack Obama and Donald Trump were President, there were 460,000 illegal encounters annually on average. Under Joe Biden, it was 2,641,000. It was 600-percent worse. Mayor Wu, you would agree with me, I hope, on this, that Vladimir Putin is a bad hombre and he rules over an authoritarian regime, yes?

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. FALLON. Bipartisan agreement. Wonderful. Under President Trump's first Administration, 98 Russian nationals were apprehended on the Southern border entering the country illegally. Under Joe Biden, it was 127,415, 130,000-percent worse. Terror Watch List went from 11 under President Trump to 382.

[Phone audible.]

Mr. FALLON. That might be one of them calling right now. February 2024, 190,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended. This past month, it was only 8,000, a 96-percent reduction.

Now, the common theme that we heard from a lot of Oversight Democrats is a bold-faced lie that illegal immigrants, or I should say, immigrants are less likely to commit crimes. What they are doing is they are infusing legal immigrants with illegal. When you bifurcate, when you separate them, yes, legal immigrants are less likely to commit crimes, but illegal immigrants are more likely to. Non-U.S. citizens account for 7 percent of the U.S. population, yet account for 15 percent of the Federal arrests and prosecutions according to the Justice Department.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform found that if you are an illegal immigrant, you were two times more likely to be incarcerated in California, in New York, and five times more likely in Arizona. And in my home state, in June 2011 to January 2024, Mr. Chairman, there were 428,000 criminal aliens booked in Texas jails. Two hundred ninety-nine thousand of them were illegal immigrants charged with murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, assault, et al., 187,000 convictions. So, it is an outrageous claim to say—

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. FALLON [continuing]. That when we secured the—

Mr. CONNOLLY. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. FALLON. No, Mr. Chairman, 42 seconds left.

Mr. CONNOLLY. No, you do not.

Mr. FALLON. Yes, I do because she went over 42 seconds. Spare me.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, I got 20 seconds left, and I will wrap it, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. He is wrapping his question up.

Mr. FALLON. It is an outrageous claim to say that securing the border and enforcing our immigration laws does not make Americans safer because it does. And if you do not agree with that, I would encourage you to talk to Laken Riley's family or Jocelyn Nungaray's family. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The Chair recognizes Ms. Stansbury from New Mexico.

Ms. STANSBURY. All right. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always think that we should sage this room after these hearings because we hear a lot of crazy stuff in here, but let me start out by saying, mayors, welcome to our Committee. Thank you for serving your cities and your people. I have to say, as also an elected official, you have the hardest job in America. There is no job harder than being a mayor of a major city, so thank you for serving your constituents.

And I want to take this opportunity to especially acknowledge Mayor Wu because not only are you the first woman to ever serve the city of Boston, if you all have not been watching, she is also the mother of a newborn who is here with her. She has a 7-week-old baby, and she showed up to testify and be yelled at by our colleagues for 4 hours. So, I say to you, Mayor Wu, may your daughter grow up to be a fierce leader like you.

Ms. WU. Thank you.

Ms. STANSBURY. Now, I want to reject the fundamental premise of this hearing because what this entire effort is about is intimidating state and local officials, attacking law-abiding immigrant families, and spending millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars both in the Administration and in Congress to make ads that are complete smoke and mirrors trying to say that Donald Trump has somehow secured America's safety.

What they are doing is not making America safer. In fact, it is a total and complete lie because Donald Trump has failed to actually even secure the border. He has failed to stop illicit drugs, like fentanyl, from crossing the border. He has failed to secure sufficient staffing and technology to stop human trafficking and illicit drugs from crossing the border. He has failed to support local law enforcement and behavioral health programs to address the issues that are affecting our communities. And he has failed to even execute on the most basic thing that he said he would do, which was to pass immigration reform when he got into office.

Here we are, Donald Trump. Where is your immigration bill? Oh, wait, you do not have one. That is right, because none of this is actually about making America safer. In fact, all of this is making America weaker. He is dismantling our Federal law enforcements that would actually go after cartels and drug traffickers. Over the last 6 weeks, Donald Trump has taken out the most senior FBI officials and the officials in our U.S. Attorney's offices that were actually prosecuting the cases against the drug cartels. Donald Trump took out the law enforcement that were prosecuting those cases.

So, let us be real about that. He froze Federal law enforcement funds all across the country. I have tribes in my district that still have not had their DOJ grants reinstated. Let us be real about what is going on here. He has frozen funds to refugee resettlement and other immigrant groups, permanently, who have outstanding receipts. There are refugees and asylees that had waited decades to get to this country from war-torn parts of the world, and they literally had their flights canceled the last 2 weeks, while Donald

Trump is sitting in the Oval Office and offering millionaire oligarchs a free ride into America with his gold visa program.

Is this really about making America safe again? Is that really what he is about, is that really what my colleagues across the aisle are about, because what I can tell you, as a representative from a great city, the city of Albuquerque, a border state, is that we know what makes our community safer. It means we stop drugs from coming into our country and our communities. It means that we support and we fund our law enforcement. It means that we fund our behavioral health system. It means that we support our mayors, our tribal leaders, and our state officials. It means that we invest in them. It does not mean that we drag them in front of Congress for 4 hours, we yell at them, we tell them we are going to give them criminal referrals.

The DOJ is intimidating our mayors, and my colleagues across the aisle are producing TV ads to try to pretend that they are making this country safe again. It is total bullshit, absolute bullshit. They are not making America safer again, and what they are doing is terrorizing immigrant families. That is what they are doing—parents who are afraid to send their kids to school, parents who are afraid that they will not come home again, kids who are afraid to leave their houses, refugees who have waited for years to come into this country. And our mayors are sitting here enduring this ridiculous, ridiculous hearing as they have been threatened in front of the American people.

And so, I will say in the words of my sister in the front row who brought forward the words of one of our faith leaders just a few days ago on the House Floor, I hope that my colleagues across the aisle, who I can tell most of whom come from immigrant stock, will have the same mercy that our ancestors had shown to them by this country so that you could sit here and be a Congress person.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired. We are going to—

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Crockett?

Ms. CROCKETT. From *The Economist*, "How Boston Became the Safest Big City in America. Murder is Declining Across the Country, but Boston Has Led the Way." And then I have one more UC request. It is from *InsightCrime.org*: Gang violence in Haiti continued to surge in 2024 following a trend that began after the assassination of president in 2021. The country reported a record number of homicides in 2024 with over 7,000 murders for a rate of 62 percent, up from 40.9 percent in 2023.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

At the request of the witnesses, we are going to do one more questioner. It will be Mr. Sessions from Texas, then the Committee will take a 15-minute break. Last question before the break, at the request of the witnesses, will be Mr. Sessions from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. To the panelists, thank you for taking time to be here. I hasten to say that I am probably not going to yell at you. I will not live up to the things that we have been accused of today, but I will say that I want to defend some actions that are being taken.

I remember a few years ago when Boston had two illegal aliens. They were known as criminal aliens, but they were known as on the Watch List. They created a bomb that went off at the Boston Marathon, only killed a couple of people, but caused huge disruption. And it brought to light that the administration at the time and prior administration had allowed people who were on watch lists that we understood were terrorism, criminal, and we were allowing them in the country. We marched forward as we moved about the rule of law being ignored.

The United States of America allows 1 million people to go through our process, the largest amount anywhere in the world—1 million people—and they go through a process. And I spoke at one of these ceremonies, naturalization ceremonies, last May, and I spoke to the people that were there, and they all unequivocally stated thank you to the United States of America. But they learned what they were entering, what they were expected to do, that their customs from where they came from, some could be kept, but the things which did not correspond to American law now needed to be followed. That they were going to become American citizens, not where they came from, but they wanted to be Americans, and they had to follow those rules and regulations or laws. That we were very open to them being here and that they could legally perform the duties that they wanted.

What has caused this mismatch is more than just the Boston bomber or people being killed, but, rather, the public interest in looking at the charade that it caused all across this country, in particular, in larger cities, Chicago, yes, New York City, yes, other cities around the United States where people felt not only threatened, but it was activity that was seen as unbecoming to people who should be where they were and giving respect and thanks to a group of people who were allowing them to be here, i.e., a city that was not going to arrest them.

But you see, what we really understood is, if you were here illegally, they were not going to arrest you even for a crime. They might have arrested someone who was a citizen and put them behind bars, but unless they really created a heinous circumstance, they were not going to be arrested, and so this created an aura around the United States that the American people understood. And that is one of the reasons why you saw the American people not only vote with their hands, but vote with their emotions about the need to bring back not just law and order, not just rule of law, but the ability that we had as American people to rethink the entire issue.

And I do understand you think that this is all broken in Washington, DC. because you disagree with it. But what we have been allowing is the next President, whether it be Barack Obama, whether it be George W. Bush, whether it be Donald Trump, whether it be Joe Biden, to insist upon their own way instead of the law. The laws have been misguided, they have been misused, and they are taken advantage of. I think what we are trying to do today is to hear from you, not as “we are accused,” but rather thoughtful people to hear you talk about your cities, the things which you encounter, and the things which you think are right.

And by and large—and I have been in and out of this Committee today—but we, by and large, heard it is not less safe, it is more safe because of what we do, and yet, it comes at a cost and a price, and it creates circumstances. So, I want to thank you for being here. I want you to remember that not everybody yelled and screamed at you. Some people actually showed up to listen, and that is what I did today. And I want to thank each of you because your modeling that you have been doing is something that we do need to pay attention to. Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Chairman COMER. Very good. The Committee will take a 20-minute break. Pursuant to the previous order, the Chair declares the Committee in recess for 20 minutes.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. The Committee will come back to order.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Crockett from Texas.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, and thank you so much to our mayors that are here. And I really quickly want to touch on something because I know that many of you prepared for today's hearing by making sure that you got a little bit of information about immigrants and crime in your cities. Let me ask each of the mayors, just yes or no, have any of you been made aware of any immigrant that has had 34 felony convictions that is still been able to roam around in your cities? Anyone?

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, ma'am.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thirty four felony convictions—

Ms. WU. No, Congresswoman.

Ms. CROCKETT [continuing]. From the immigrants. Anybody?

Mr. ADAMS. I am not aware.

Ms. CROCKETT. Oh, OK. OK. I am just curious because we are so concerned about crime, and I know that my Republican colleagues would never want anybody with 34 felony convictions roaming around because that could be a danger to the community, but I will move on.

The Republicans put more effort into producing their little propaganda trailer for this hearing than they have into reforming America's immigration system, and that is why we are here today. In fact, Republicans are beating up on the vast majority of you about what you are doing for your citizens, but the last time I checked, you are actually showing up. You may or may not be aware, but the NRCC just instructed Republicans to stop their town hall meetings because their constituents were showing up and telling them to "do your jobs."

If I had to sum up some of what you have said thus far today, I would sum it up as you have been trying to tell them as politely as you can to do their jobs. In fact, we know that they have not done their jobs, and so they are trying to force you to do it for them by turning your local law enforcement officers into ICE agents. They have this fake outrage about how immigrants are stealing resources and jobs from Americans when residents of Boston, Chicago, New York City, and Denver are subsidizing public services in their districts and their states because the Republicans refuse to ensure that their constituents earn a livable wage. Look, they do not have a plan to fix immigration in America because they do not want to. Mass deportation is not a plan, arresting kids in schools

or worshipers in church is not a plan, but there are important points to discuss as it relates to immigration in America.

So, Mr. Bier, in January, you testified before the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement. During that hearing, we played a little game called rhetoric or reality. Do you remember that?

Mr. BIER. I remember, yes.

Ms. CROCKETT. OK. Well, let us go ahead for round two, why don't we? Rhetoric or reality: immigrants are a burden to the American taxpayers because they deplete our Federal resources?

Mr. BIER. That would be rhetoric.

Ms. CROCKETT. Correct. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that immigrants will lower U.S. deficits by a cumulative \$1 trillion and increase the U.S. economy size by nearly \$9 trillion over 10 years. Is that correct?

Mr. BIER. That is correct.

Ms. CROCKETT. In 2023, 47 million immigrants paid nearly \$652 billion in taxes, \$58.1 billion in taxes alone in Texas. Rhetoric or reality: during his first Administration, Trump improved enforcement of U.S. immigration laws?

Mr. BIER. He did not.

Ms. CROCKETT. In fact, President Trump closed almost all immigration courts for removal proceedings, cut prosecutions for unauthorized entry by 87 percent, cut ICE removals to the lowest level in the history of the Agency, and released 9,000 people with violent crime convictions back into our communities. Is that correct?

Mr. BIER. That is right. Yes.

Ms. CROCKETT. So, rhetoric or reality: President Trump's immigration policies make American communities safer?

Mr. BIER. No, they do not make communities safer.

Ms. CROCKETT. In fact, nearly a hundred thousand unauthorized immigrants have obtained legal status through their cooperation with law enforcement. And local law enforcement agencies have more than 300,000 pending requests for immigrants seeking legal status based upon their cooperation with law enforcement according to the Department of Homeland Security. Is that correct?

Mr. BIER. That is right. Immigrants work with law enforcement to stop and solve crimes.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you. That was one of my rhetoric or reality questions. Sorry. The question was, immigrants without legal status can help stop crime. That is correct, right?

Mr. BIER. Yes, that is correct.

Ms. CROCKETT. All right. And, Mr. Bier, isn't it true that Republicans are threatening to illegally strip cities of law enforcement grants intended for local policing and public safety if they do not go along with Trump's immigration agenda?

Mr. BIER. That is right. They want to redistribute the fiscal burden onto the Democratic cities and away from the Republican ones.

Ms. CROCKETT. Which brings me to my next point. Mayor Adams, do you believe that President Trump is weaponizing the Department of Justice against local governments like New York City?

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you for the question, Congresswoman, and as I indicated previously, this case is in front of Judge Ho, and I am going to allow the judicial process to go forward.

Ms. CROCKETT. Well, let me ask it a different way. There was a quote from Mr.——

Chairman COMER. Uh——

Ms. CROCKETT. Well, he had to get advice. So, can I just get a——

Chairman COMER. What is that?

Ms. CROCKETT. He was getting advice, so can I get a little bit of time? I did not interrupt why he was getting advice.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Ms. CROCKETT. OK. This is the last one. There was a quote from Mr. Homan, I believe, where he said he will be in your office and up your butt if there was a problem with whatever agreement. We do not know what it was. My question to you—I know you have been asked about it a couple of times today—is was he lying when he said that you made an agreement that would cause him to beat up your butt if you fail to uphold your end of it?

Chairman COMER. And the gentlelady's time has expired, but if the Mayor will try to, he can.

Mr. ADAMS. Congresswoman, I answered that question, and it appears as though we are asking the same questions over and over and over again. My comments are not going to change. No quid pro quo. No agreement. I did nothing wrong.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Langworthy from New York.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mayors, for being here. You all represent cities that should be beacons of opportunities for young professionals, entrepreneurs, and hardworking Americans that want to make it in this world, not the laughingstocks that they have become in many ways. New York was once hailed as the capital of the world, Boston was admired for its founding role in America, Chicago was the gateway to the West and the icon of the Great Lakes, and Denver was admired for its natural beauty. Now all these cities are seen as a place where illegal immigrants, violent criminals, and gang members thrive, breaking our laws and spreading fear throughout our communities.

Let us be clear. Sanctuary policies have not just failed. They have made our cities less safe and less welcoming to those who truly want to contribute to our communities. Here is a perfect example. Laken Riley's murderer was arrested in New York City on charges of detaining a minor. He was released due to New York State's sanctuary status. He was then allowed to go on to Georgia, where he murdered Laken in cold blood. Last night, in my district, 400 miles from New York City, two members of Tren de Aragua gang were arrested for an ATM jackpotting scheme that stole more than \$100,000. The suspects were also wanted for similar crimes throughout the state of New York and in your states, Mayor Johnson and Mayor Wu, for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, God only knows what else these dangerous gang members are responsible for. Buffalo ICE recently arrested an illegal from Peru who had murdered 23 people and had the victims faces tattooed on his body. He was allowed to evade law enforcement for a long time due to New York State green light law that protected him and shielded DMV data from Federal law enforcement officials.

There is no such thing as a victimless crime. Every crime has a victim, and these victims, they do not have a sanctuary. They have to live with the pain and the trauma of something being taken from them—their safety, their security, their property—and to add insult to injury, the witnesses before us have protected the perpetrators.

Mayor Wu, the other day, you stunningly expressed sympathy for the man responsible for the knife attack, not the brave officer who stopped him. Where is the sympathy for the men and women in law enforcement trying to keep us safe?

Ms. WU. Congressman, check your facts.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. It is my time.

Ms. WU. Check your facts. Watch the video.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. It is my time.

Ms. WU. I did not express sympathy for that individual, but for their family.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Where is the sympathy for the victims?

Ms. WU. And any individual whose life is lost—

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I have not asked you a question.

Ms. WU [continuing]. Is a tragic—

Mr. LANGWORTHY. It is appalling to me that we even have to ask for sympathy for victims instead of violent criminals, but here we are, and to all the mayors before us, hindsight being 20/20 is a blessing and a curse. You cannot go back in time, but it should give you clarity for the future. Laken's murderer, Jose Ibarra, had demonstrated he was a danger to society. He should have been detained by ICE. I want to ask each of you, yes or no, do you agree that someone who demonstrates a willingness to harm society should be detained by immigration officials? Mayor Adams, yes or no?

Mr. ADAMS. Within the confine and restrictions of the law, yes, I do.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. OK. Mayor Johnston?

Mr. JOHNSTON. If someone has committed a crime, yes, they should be detained, and we would help them.

Mr. JOHNSON. Every violent criminal should be held accountable, and that is why crime is down in the city of Chicago because we are doing just that.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. If you commit crimes against the people of Boston, you will be prosecuted.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Another yes or no question: has anything that has happened in this country in the last 3 years given you reason to consider removing sanctuary city status from your communities? Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. I am clear that what we do is prevent some of these crimes from taking place.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mayor Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We think the system that we have works, and we will keep it.

Mr. JOHNSON. Violent crime is down in Chicago because of Welcoming City ordinance.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Have you considered removing sanctuary city status?

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, violent crime is down in the city of Chicago under my leadership, and we are going to continue to do what we have to do to ensure that that continues.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mayor Wu?

Ms. WU. We are the safest major city in the country in part because people trust that they can call 9-1-1 and help police solve crimes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Have you considered removing sanctuary city status?

Ms. WU. We are going to continue to keep our policies in place that have been working for the people of Boston.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I think you have answered the question. The American people are fed up with the policies that protect criminals, waste taxpayer dollars, and prioritize illegal immigrants over the safety and well-being of hardworking citizens. Your cities, once shining beacons of opportunity, have now become a symbol of failure and leadership. The time for excuses is over, and the American people demand that you take responsibility, abandon these reckless policies, and start putting the safety of your constituents first. And with that, I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent. From *USAFacts.org*—

Chairman COMER. Who said that?

Ms. CROCKETT. “Which states rely the most on Federal aid?” The No. 3 highest proportion of Federal funding that a state relies upon is the state of Kentucky, your state, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Simon from California.

Ms. SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ranking Member. Mayors, it is really a pleasure to hear from you today, and Ms. Wu, I was able to meet your sleeping daughter outside, and as a mother myself, I know the care that you are taking not only for your own family, but for our communities. But to all of you, thank you for being here today for so many hours.

Just quickly. You know, when I came to Congress, I was under the impression that both Members of Congress and folks who are in the Federal Government take heed to the history of this country. I would love for Members of Congress and on this Committee to contact the Congressional Research Service and look at the ordinances and the authors who created ordinances of sundown towns. That animus is almost mirrored with the conversations today about our immigrant communities. So, when you get in your Uber and when you talk to your nurse and when you go home, I want you to look in the face of the folks that you are disrespecting today.

The real crisis, to me and many who study this issue for a career, it is a broken asylum system. Right now, 3.7 million folks are in this country waiting, and they have waited years. These folks fleeing violence for years are waiting for an immigration system that works. That is not the duty of these mayors. It is our job. It is the Federal Government’s job to create an asylum system that honestly purports what we say on the base of the Statue of Liberty, and let us get that work done. Do not blame our mayors who are supporting young people and elders and bringing in Federal dollars

for health care. I want to yield my time to the gentlelady from New York, Ms. Cortez.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I thank the Congresswoman. I would like to start with some questions prior to my recognized questions. Mayor Adams, on January 31 of 2025, your attorneys met with Federal prosecutors regarding the charges of bribery, campaign finance fraud, and conspiracy against you. Were you aware of this meeting prior to its occurrence?

Mr. ADAMS. Congresswoman——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Microphone, please.

Mr. ADAMS. I am sorry. As I stated to your colleagues, and I am going to continue to state because we are asking the same question over and over again——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. This is not a question——

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. This case is in front of Judge Ho, and out of deference to our criminal justice——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I understand. Mayor Adams——

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. Process, I am going to defer this——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mayor Adams, as your counsel, I am sure, will inform you, the only permissible way to refuse to answer a question during a congressional proceeding such as this is by pleading the Fifth Amendment. Deference to the judge is not a permissible excuse for not answering questions during a congressional hearing, or is it your intention to plead the Fifth today?

Mr. ADAMS. Councilwoman [sic], you said the only way that you cannot answer a question is to plead the Fifth. I am answering your question. I am answering your question directly that——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. You are not, Mayor Adams.

Mr. ADAMS. OK. I believe I am.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I will ask it again. Were you aware of the meeting between your attorneys and Federal prosecutors on January 31? Answering this question is a yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. And I am going to answer it again. Out of deference to Judge Ho with this case in court now——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. That is not an answer, Mayor Adams.

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. He is going to deal with the outcome of the case.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mayor Adams, is it your intention to not comply with these questions?

Mr. ADAMS. As I stated, I am answering your questions. And what you are doing, let us be clear on, you are asking me about communications between my attorney and I, and I do not think——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. OK. I will move on to the next question. If it is about——

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. That it is inappropriate to be asking a question between the attorney and I because we are in a country of law and order.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I understand. So, Mayor Adams——

Mr. ADAMS. And your relationship, the communications with your attorney should be respected.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Who is your attorney?

Mr. ADAMS. Alex Spiro.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Alex Spiro. Thank you. Now, Mayor Adams, have your attorneys ever met with city officials? You know, I am

not asking about your conversations with your attorneys. Have your attorneys met with New York city officials?

Mr. ADAMS. Any communication or activity between my attorney and I is between my attorney and I.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. It is a yes or no. Have your personal attorneys—

Mr. ADAMS. You can reach out to—

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ [continuing]. Met with New York city officials?

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. Alex Spiro, my attorney, to deal with those communications.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mayor Adams, in this meeting, did anyone representing you, including perhaps Mr. Spiro, agree or allude to any arrangement with the Trump Administration that would involve changing city policies in exchange to reconsideration of the charges brought against you?

Mr. ADAMS. You say in this meeting? Can you be clear on what meeting?

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. In the January 31 meeting.

Mr. ADAMS. Again, there was never any agreement, never any quid pro quo—

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. That is not what I am asking.

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. And I did nothing wrong. Never any agreement, never any quid pro quo—

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Was there an allusion to—

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. And nothing that I have done wrong.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ [continuing]. A shift in New York City policy?

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired, and I just want to remind everybody Mayor Adams is here voluntarily, and we appreciate that. The topic of the hearing is about our illegal alien problem and the drain on the cities and what the solution is. So, the Chair now recognizes Mr. McGuire from Virginia.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this important hearing, and the American people deserve answers on the disastrous policies of sanctuary cities. As a veteran, as a Navy SEAL, I hope what I am about to say is commonsense. If somebody saved your life on the battlefield, you would not care if they were pink or blue or male or female or Democrat, Republican, or independent. We are all people. This is not a race, religion, or creed thing. Our American people, we, the people, are being robbed, raped, and killed by these criminals that are coming across our border. My first question is just a yes or no. Do you believe someone who breaks the law is a criminal? Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I do.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Next?

Mr. JOHNSTON. If you have broken criminal law, yes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Just a simple yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Did you answer?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSTON. OK. Could you repeat your question again?

Mr. MCGUIRE. If you commit a crime, are you a criminal? Yes or no?

Mr. JOHNSON. If you commit a crime, you should be held accountable, absolutely.

Ms. WU. I do not use that label. Depending on what it is, like a speeding ticket, for example.

Mr. MCGUIRE. I understand. Well, I got to tell you guys, thank God we have President Trump in the White House; thank God we have the border czar, Tom Homan; thank God we have Mike Johnson as a Speaker; thank God we have leader Thune in the Senate; and thank God we have Hegseth, Rubio, and everyone else. Over the last 4 years, the American people have been robbed, raped, and killed, and the left does not talk about that. They want to say that people might be scared in their homes. Well, what about the families whose members have been killed and persecuted? The border has been cleaned up in just a matter of weeks. Border crossings are down 97 percent in just a matter of weeks, and over the last 4 years, we have been getting lip service like we want to secure the border. Eighty percent of Americans believe we should secure the Southern border.

We are all elected leaders, and I assume you all sought these positions to help your citizens improve the quality of life in your city. It appears to me that left-wing activists want to create wedges in our society and cause the mayors of our great cities to ignore their oath of office and to support rule of law. Each of you took an oath that included an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. ADAMS. Yes.

Ms. WU. Yes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Are you aware that——

Mr. JOHNSTON. Correct.

Mr. MCGUIRE [continuing]. Article VI, Section 2 makes laws of the United States supreme? Notice the Supremacy Clause. Is everybody aware of this?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Yes.

Mr. ADAMS. Yes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. I am shocked that you all as elected leaders flaunt violating Federal laws as if you are running a political campaign. We are a Nation of laws. We lose credibility as a Nation when we disregard or ignore the law and the people die. As of July 24, there are more than 660,000 illegal aliens from criminal backgrounds roaming the United States. It is estimated that the total added cost of illegal aliens nationwide is \$150 billion per year. Since the start of 2023, the Federal Government has spent more than \$1.45 billion reimbursing local jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations that provide travel, shelter, and other service to illegal aliens.

What about homeless veterans that are living on the street? What about Hurricane Helene victims that are still suffering in North Carolina? What about those folks that are suffering from the forest fires in Los Angeles? Chicago has spent over \$639 million. Denver spent over \$365 million. Boston is spending potentially, well, about \$1 billion annually, and New York City estimates it could potentially spend \$12 billion on illegal aliens from 2022 through Fiscal Year 2025. If you were the President and you found that your cities were spending billions of dollars against the inter-

est of your citizens in violation of the Supremacy Clause, don't you think you would have cause to consider withholding Federal funding, yes or no? No answer?

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, because we have not violated any Federal law.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Yes, you are making the taxpayers of this Nation foot your bill for your potential whims that you do not agree with is wrong, and that is getting people killed. Mayor Wu, in the Boston area alone, Tom Homan said there are at least nine accused child rapists——

Ms. WU. That is inaccurate.

Mr. MCGUIRE [continuing]. Who local authorities——

Ms. WU. That is false.

Mr. MCGUIRE. It is my time.

Ms. WU. That is false. I would like to see the facts on that.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Who local authorities refuse to turn over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Ms. WU. Again, put him under oath and ask the question here.

Mr. MCGUIRE. How could you do that to your citizens? It sounds like you care more about your politics than the safety of your citizens. Imagine the parents of those children abused by someone you all released into society.

Ms. WU. Congressman, our safety statistics——

Mr. MCGUIRE. It could have been prevented.

Ms. WU [continuing]. Are the lowest in the country, lower than your district.

Mr. MCGUIRE. In my district, a little girl aged 14 was raped by an illegal alien. He was released from jail four times because you guys on the left, you believe that criminals are good, police are bad, and no one cares about the victims. This horrific crime was avoidable, but it was sanctuary policies like yours that allowed the offender to travel to the U.S. and end up in my district, and with that, I yield.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields. The Chair recognizes Mr. Min from California.

Mr. MIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to take a moment just to note that, once again, this Committee is failing to do its job and actually exercise oversight in the way it should. My phones are ringing off the hook with people who are angry as hell about what they see as the rampant corruption of this Administration, the illegal activities of Elon Musk and DOGE, and the massive cuts to Medicaid that Republicans voted for last week. Literally, not one person has called to ask about the immigration enforcement priorities of the cities I represent, let alone Boston or Chicago. This hearing is an attempt to distract from the actual waste, fraud, corruption, and abuse that is happening at unprecedented levels in this country right now.

So, thank you to the witnesses. I want to start off with a few simple yes/no questions for you all. First, please raise your hand, for the mayors, if you are aware of any laws or policies that prevent Federal authorities from enforcing immigration in your city.

[No response.]

Mr. MIN. OK. No hands are raised. Please raise your hand if you are aware of any cities or states in America that have laws or poli-

cies that prevent Federal authorities from enforcing immigration law. Any cities or states?

[No response.]

Mr. MIN. OK. I just want to note for the record again there are no hands up, and as your answers make clear, this whole sanctuary city "debate" is a sham. There is no place in America, not one, that actually provides sanctuary from Federal law, period. The real issue here is whether state and local governments should spend scarce taxpayer dollars to help the Federal Government enforce its immigration priorities, whether local police should spend their time focused on their actual jobs keeping our streets safe, apprehending violent criminals, solving crimes, or whether they should be deputized to help enforce Federal immigration laws. And a lot of cities and states, including my state of California, have made the very reasonable decision to say, hey, we want our teachers, nurses, doctors, cops, firefighters to focus on their actual jobs and not be dragged into this Republican war on immigrants. And let us be clear. The Republican immigration policies being pushed forward right now are counterproductive and will make us far less safe, something several of our mayors pointed out in their testimony.

Look, I support a 100 percent ban on all illegal border crossings, but the reality is we already have over 10 million people here in this country without proper immigration status, many of whom have been here for decades. And if you have ICE agents patrolling our courthouses, police stations, and hospitals, that means that those undocumented immigrants are not going to go anywhere, but they are going to stop reporting crimes or seeking medical care, and this makes us all less safe from the rapists and murderers out there.

Now, recently, my Orange County Sheriff, Don Barnes, a staunch conservative, issued a statement outlining his position on immigration enforcement, and here is what he stated, "The Orange County Sheriff's Department does not enforce Federal immigration law. It is not part of our primary mission, and we remain focused on violations of state and local laws. The department will provide for your safety and respond to your calls for service regardless of your immigration status. We do not and never will ask the immigration status of victims, witnesses, suspects, or those who call to report crimes. We enforce state and local laws equally without bias and without concern for your citizenship."

Now, I actually think this is a pretty good summary of what each of you are describing happens in your cities, a situation where the Federal Government enforces immigration law while states and local authorities enforce state and local laws, and it makes a lot of sense. I do not know what my colleagues on the other side think, but I do not want my police focused on immigration status and asking people about that. I want them focused on preventing violent crimes.

But with that, I want to shift gears to address Mayor Eric Adams. Mayor, as has been well discussed in this Committee, you are the first sitting mayor in modern New York City history to be indicted while in office. Last year, of course, you were charged with numerous felony counts for soliciting and accepting bribes for near-

ly a decade from foreign nationals, businessmen, and others, including illegal campaign contributions and luxury travel. On February 10 of this year, the Trump Justice Department instructed Federal prosecutors to drop charges against you. This decision caused seven Federal prosecutors, including a Trump appointee, to resign because they believed this was such an enormous miscarriage of the rule of law and law enforcement.

Now, as some of my colleagues have pointed out, this was widely reported as a quid pro quo. I know you have denied that. I know you are probably limited in what you can say. But a lot of people out there, including a lot of people in New York City that I know, believe that these charges were dropped in exchange for a quid pro quo for your agreement to help the Trump Administration enforce its immigration policies. So, my question for you, Mayor Adams, is actually a very simple one. It is clear that whatever your intentions, whatever actions you take whether on immigration or anything else, you do not enjoy the trust and confidence of the people of New York City. And my question is, why haven't you not resigned yet, and do you plan to resign today or anytime soon?

Mr. ADAMS. I am really surprised after you laid out your strong belief in the country—

Mr. MIN. It is a yes/no question.

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. And what we stand for, that you are asking to take—

Mr. MIN. Why have you not resigned yet, Mayor Adams?

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. Away the power of the people.

Mr. MIN. Why have you not resigned yet?

Mr. ADAMS. The people of the city elected me to be the Mayor.

Mr. MIN. It is not a question against your lawyers. Why have you not resigned yet? Please answer the question.

Mr. ADAMS. And you should not be hypocrite and ask the people of the city's power to be usurped for them.

Mr. MIN. Why have you not resigned yet, and do you intend to resign anytime soon?

Mr. ADAMS. I was elected by the people of the city, and you do not—

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mr. Jack from Georgia.

Mr. JACK. Mr. Chairman, thank you for convening this hearing, and I would like to begin by offering some thoughts about our colleague from Texas, Congressman Sylvester Turner, who sadly just passed away.

As some of you may know, Congressman Turner was a former two-term Mayor of Houston, and as our witnesses can no doubt attest, being the Mayor of a big city is not easy. Congressman Turner was a member of our freshman class, and his office is right next to mine in the Longworth House Office Building. And as such, I had an opportunity to walk with him to and from votes, found him to be an incredible gentleman with respect and courtesy. My colleagues across the aisle, particularly the freshmen, knew Congressman Turner better than I, so I certainly yield to them on this topic, but I wanted to at least mention my own thoughts for the record.

Now to the topic of today's hearing. I prepared for today's hearing by chatting with some of the mayors from my district, from those who represent just a few hundred to those who represent a few thousand, and I found a common theme of frustration. They, along with me and many other constituents I proudly represent in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, want to know why policies are in place that benefit citizens of other countries at the expense of citizens of our own country.

So, if I could, Mayor Johnston, I would like to start with you, from Denver. I know Chairman Comer in his opening line of questioning discussed an ordinance passed by the Denver City Council in 2017, and I recognize you had just left the State Senate by then, but this ordinance prohibits city and county employees from assisting the enforcement of Federal laws or inquiring about a person's immigration status. So, I just have to ask, do you see a benefit in learning whether or not someone charged with a crime is a citizen of another country?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. I do just want to say Mayor Turner hosted me in Houston when I first became Mayor, so that is a powerful statement for me. Thank you for acknowledging it. Thank you, sir. We do not ask someone's status when we first contact them because it is not relevant for whatever charges we may be pursuing. They may list their country of origin on a document that we ask for. It does not indicate their immigration status. They could have legal status but be from another country.

Mr. JACK. Thanks. Mayor Johnson of Chicago, do you see a benefit in asking someone charged with a crime whether or not they are a citizen of our country?

Mr. JOHNSON. The benefit of community safety is trust between local residents and law enforcement, and that relationship is critical to driving violence down. Under my leadership, violence has gone down in the city of Chicago.

Mr. JACK. And, Mayor Johnson, if I can ask, have you ever disciplined, fired, or arrested law enforcement officers or correction officers if they notified ICE or other Federal immigration officers of an illegal criminal alien in lock up reports in violation of your sanctuary city policies? Have you ever disciplined, fired, or arrested a law enforcement officer that worked with ICE?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do not believe that is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor. I do not arrest people or—

Mr. JACK. Are there issued memos in which you direct Chicago officers from not assisting with enforcement and immigration law or, you know, helping ICE identify folks who may not be here legally?

Mr. JOHNSON. We do have documentation around making sure that the residents of the city of Chicago know their rights. That is important because it builds trust between law enforcement and community. By having that confidence and trust, people are more likely to come forward to report violent crime regardless of their immigration status.

Mr. JACK. Well, I have to submit to the record, Mr. Chairman, an article from *NewsNationNow*, January 21, 2025, in which it says, "Chicago Police Reminded They Cannot Cooperate with Deportations," and if I may ask, Mayor, are there any memos—

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. JACK. Thank you. Are there any memos that direct Chicago police “do not cooperate with President Trump’s deportation plans?”

Mr. JOHNSON. We are not Federal agents, so local law enforcement in the city of Chicago, they do not dub as Federal agents.

Mr. JACK. But that having been said, from your mayoral office, have you ever issued memos to the police department instructing them not to cooperate with President Trump?

Mr. JOHNSON. We remind people of what the Welcoming City ordinance entails.

Mr. JACK. Would you submit to the Committee any written documentation to the Chicago Police Department as it relates to this?

Mr. JOHNSON. For the Welcoming City ordinance, we are happy to make sure that this body has that ordinance, and that policy has been around for 40 years.

Mr. JACK. Thank you very much.

Mayor Wu, back to my line of questioning with Mayor Johnston and Johnson, do you believe that if you are asking someone who has been charged with a crime whether or not they are here in our country legally, is that a proper and a beneficial thing to do?

Ms. WU. The laws of Massachusetts and the Boston Trust Act help Boston police solve crimes. We do not ask for immigration status because it allows for people to trust that when they call 9-1-1, when they have information that might help bring justice to another family, that they feel comfortable sharing that.

Mr. JACK. Thank you. And Mayor Adams, in closing

-obviously, you know police very well—do you see a benefit in asking folks who have been charged with a crime whether or not they are a legal citizen?

Mr. ADAMS. Yes, I do.

Mr. JACK. With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Gillen.

Ms. GILLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one thing everybody seems to agree on here is that our immigration system is broken and desperately needs to be fixed. And I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work together with us to fix our broken immigration system, to fix our broken asylum system, which is not fixed by firing the top immigration judges who can actually help us fix this problem, but my focus here today is the effect on my constituents on Long Island.

Every day my constituents are dealing with the effects of the failure to secure our border and the influx of more than 670,000 migrants who have come into the state and New York City putting a strain on our schools, on public safety and law enforcement, and local governments. Mayor Adams, you said your top priority is to keep New Yorkers safe, but under your watch, the exact opposite has happened. Instead of effectively governing our city, your policies have compounded this crisis.

New York has housed migrants in the Roosevelt Hotel for nearly 2 years, not only giving them food and shelter, but also debit cards. In New York, taxpayers have paid about, as you acknowledge, \$7 billion to respond to this crisis. That figure is outrageous. And now,

instead of stopping the bleeding, you are going back and asking the taxpayers of New York to spend another billion dollars on this crisis. While you focused on your own personal problems, crime has skyrocketed in New York, increasing 20 percent since you took office in 2021.

An *AP* poll has said that the majority of Americans agree that undocumented people who commit violent crimes should be deported, including 79 percent of Democrats, but what have you done? I was astounded to hear that ICE was prevented, even if they knew there were gang members in the Roosevelt Hotel, from actually doing anything to get those gang members out of there. Mayor Adams, what have you done, and what is your answer to the taxpayers of New York for the money that has been spent on this crisis?

Mr. ADAMS. You raise several things, and there is a level of inaccuracy in some of the stuff you raise, and you look at our crime numbers. I am not sure where you got those from, but we could give you an accurate account of our crime numbers. Crime has continued to drop since I have been the Mayor of the city. We have moved over 20,000 illegal guns off our street, and although we had 230,000 migrants and asylum seekers that came to our door, 189,000 were able to go on to the next step of their journey.

We managed a crisis. Congress makes our immigration policies, not mayors. I managed a crisis that was dropped at my door, and I continue to do that every day, and I am proud of what my team did coming out of COVID and managing this crisis as well. Our city has more private sector jobs in the history of the city, our bond rate has increased and stabilized, our city is functioning, and we are going to continue to do the job that I was elected to do.

Ms. GILLEN. So, spending \$8 billion is a good job? Mayor Adams, what you said today has given me no confidence in your ability to continue to serve and lead our city.

Mr. ADAMS. But you do not live in New York City.

Ms. GILLEN. You have proven that you are unfit—to serve as—

Mr. ADAMS. You live on Long Island. You do not vote for me.

Ms. GILLEN [continuing]. Mayor, and you should resign, and I said that before you made your deal with Donald Trump.

Mr. ADAMS. Thank God you do not live in New York City. You live on Long Island. People of the city elect—

Ms. GILLEN. But the problems of New York City affect my constituents who work—

Mr. ADAMS. People of New York City elect—

Ms. GILLEN [continuing]. In Manhattan, whose kids live in Manhattan, who go to the doctor in Manhattan. Everything that happens in Manhattan affects my constituents, Mayor. I yield back.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would the gentlelady yield to me, please? I thank the gentlelady. My question, Mr. Bier, we have heard a lot about crime. So, the overwhelming majority of crime in the United States is committed by undocumented individuals whose immigration status is dubious. Is that correct?

Mr. BIER. No, that is not correct at all. The overwhelming majority of crime is committed by U.S.-born Americans.

Mr. CONNOLLY. So, if I wanted to demonize naturally born Americans, I could cherry pick crime rates from that population, and de-

monize them and dramatize that and use it to smear an entire subgroup in the population, in this case, a majority group. Is that correct?

Mr. BIER. Oh, absolutely. You could look at people with driver's licenses and say, man, they are committing a lot of crime. We should stop issuing driver's licenses to people.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Right. I think that is really the sham and the shame of what people are doing in terms of political exploitation of a population this country needs if we are going to grow and protect the social safety net for the future. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for coming before our Committee today.

In the past 4 years, our Nation has been invaded by millions and millions of people who have crossed our border. There are also millions of what is called known got-aways. These are people that our government has no idea where they came from, who they are, what they are going to do in our country. And many of these known got-aways could be criminals. They could be part of the narco cartels. They could be terrorists. We do not know who they are, and there are millions of them here. This country has also been the victim of fentanyl. This is a dangerous chemical that comes from China, is made into pressed pills in Mexico and Canada, and illegally distributed into our country by the cartels. On average, 200 to 300 Americans die every single day from fentanyl. Not die, they are murdered. They are murdered.

Americans have also been victims of all types of illegal alien crimes. One family in particular, Laken Riley's family, I know them personally, and her death was absolutely horrific. Jose Ibarra entered the United States illegally on September 8, 2022, near El Paso, Texas, with his wife and son. He was detained by the U.S. Border Patrol but soon released due to overcrowding at detention facilities. After his release, he was transported to New York City, arriving around September 15, 2022. The following summer, he was arrested by New York Police Department and charged with acting in a manner to injure a child—injure a child—and a driver's license violation. Before an immigration detainer could be issued, NYPD released Ibarra. According to ICE, he later, after this release, moved to Athens, Georgia, where he was cited for a misdemeanor for shoplifting in 2023. This guy got arrested multiple times, he was stopped at the border, but he was continually released. Just a few months later, he brutally murdered Laken Riley.

Mayor Adams, do you agree that Laken Riley would still be alive today if New York Police Department had not released Jose Ibarra after they arrested him?

Mr. ADAMS. A despicable crime, and as a former law enforcement officer, I respond to these crimes as the Mayor as well, and I believe people like that should be held accountable. And I have advocated to stop this revolving door criminal justice systems like him to come out and hurt innocent people. I wish we would have had the power to prevent that from happening.

Ms. GREENE. Mayor Adams, will you continue sanctuary city policies in your city?

Mr. ADAMS. That policy is by law. I do not make the law. I must operate within the confines of the Constitution and the law.

Ms. GREENE. Mayor Adams, will you advocate to get rid of sanctuary city policies in the city of New York?

Mr. ADAMS. I have made it clear on a portion of the sanctuary city policies that I believe we need to alter to prevent crimes like this from taking place.

Ms. GREENE. Federal law under 8 U.S.C. 1324 makes it a crime to knowingly harbor and shield illegal aliens from detection, but your cities refuse to work with ICE detainers to help them find these criminals. I will go one at a time. Mayor Adams, will you work with ICE in New York City? Yes or no.

Mr. ADAMS. ICE is part of our criminal justice apparatus, and I will work with my city, state and Federal agencies to keep our city safe no matter who they are.

Ms. GREENE. Mayor Johnston, will you work with ICE to protect your city?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do work with ICE right now, Congresswoman. When they send us information about someone they would like access to, we send them notice when and where we will release them, and they can pick them up. We have done that 1,226 times. We will keep doing it.

Ms. GREENE. Will you end sanctuary city policies?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We think the policies that we have right now allow us to work with ICE and to stop crime, and we will keep doing that.

Ms. GREENE. Mayor Johnson, will you work with ICE?

Mr. JOHNSON. Our local law enforcement, Chicago Police Department, we work with Federal agents on a variety of issues, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, getting guns off the street, and we will continue to work with Federal agencies.

Ms. GREENE. Will you stop harboring illegal aliens? Will you end sanctuary city policies?

Mr. JOHNSON. So, the city of Chicago, we do not harbor criminals. We do not harbor undocumented individuals. We comply with all laws.

Ms. GREENE. Mayor Wu, will you work with ICE to protect Americans, legal Americans, in your city and end sanctuary policies?

Ms. WU. The Boston police work with ICE and Federal agencies every single day on criminal matters and hold people who are committing crimes accountable.

Ms. GREENE. Chairman, if I may, I would like to enter for the record, according to the U.S. Constitution, giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States is an act of treason, and those that violate that should be held accountable.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. GREENE. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Ms. Ocasio-Cortez.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Thank you, Chairman. Now, Mayor Adams, are you aware that the former acting U.S. Attorney, Danielle Sassoon, was present at the January 31 meeting between your lawyers and Federal prosecutors?

Mr. ADAMS. As I stated, and Congresswoman, you appear to want to ask the question over and over again. I could only give you——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. No, these are very different questions.

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. The appropriate question over and over and over again that——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. OK. I understand.

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. This case is under Judge Ho——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mayor Adams, you are not answering this question because you believe you will incriminate yourself?

Mr. ADAMS [continuing]. And Judge Ho will be able to respond to the movement of this case.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I understand.

Mr. ADAMS. In deference to him, I would like to have him handle it.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like submit to the Congressional Record Danielle Sassoon's resignation letter from the U.S. Attorney.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Thank you so much. In her letter, the former acting U.S. Attorney, a registered Republican, a former clerk for Antonin Scalia, who was appointed by President Trump to serve as acting U.S. Attorney, was present at the January 31 meeting between Mayor Adams' attorneys and Federal prosecutors. After that meeting with attorneys, the acting U.S. Attorney resigned rather than dismiss the charges against Mr. Adams. In her letter, which I have just submitted to the Congressional Record, Ms. Sassoon stated that during that January 31 meeting, Mayor Adams's attorneys "repeatedly urged what amounted to a quid pro quo," describing it as an "improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for a dismissal of his case." The former acting U.S. Attorney has submitted a letter, and, Mayor Adams, do you know how many Federal prosecutors, total, resigned rather than file the motion to drop the charges?

Mr. ADAMS. It was reported that seven?

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Seven, correct. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit another letter from Hagan Scotten, his resignation letter.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Scott was an assistant U.S. Attorney who also attended the January 31 meeting between your attorneys and Federal prosecutors. He also resigned rather than drop the charges. In his resignation letter, he stated, "Our laws and traditions do not allow using the prosecutorial power to influence other citizens, much less elected officials." Seven Federal prosecutors, the acting U.S. Attorney, the assistant U.S. Attorney, all gave up their entire careers, Republicans included, than drop these charges because of what they saw transpire in that January 31 meeting. This is important not just for the city of New York, but for the people of the United States of America because what is being alleged is genuinely not just about what may or may not have occurred from the Mayor's office and with the Mayor, but what is happening at the Department of Justice, and that is what I want everyone to understand.

These are not Democratic U.S. Attorneys. These are Republican U.S. Attorneys that have trained under Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices, who have stated and suggested as well that the prosecutorial power at the Department of Justice may be influencing what is occurring, and instead of carrying that out and carrying out the erosion at the Department of Justice, they would have preferred to give up their entire careers. Seven lifelong public servants involved in law enforcement, mind you.

And to that, and when it comes to the fact that this may or may not have anything to do with this hearing, respectfully, Mr. Chairman, this is about specifically immigration enforcement in terms of that. And this right here is the four-alarm fire that everyone must be paying attention to because if it is not just in the Mayor's Office of New York City, what other city, what other individual, what other municipality leader can be next? For a party that talks about states' rights and municipal rights, we must defend, yes, the rule of law, including in the Department of Justice, and with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. LaHood from Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to waive on to this important Committee hearing today. I want to thank the witnesses.

I represent a district right outside of Chicago, the outskirts of Chicago, representing Rockford, Bloomington/Normal, Peoria. And I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having this hearing. It is past time that individuals like the mayors we have before us come before us and explain to the American people why you continue to fail to enforce the laws of our country and allow illegal immigrants to flood into our communities. And it is clear to me that sanctuary city policies have significantly harmed our once great cities, which is very, very unfortunate. During my time as an elected official, I have strongly condemned the policy around sanctuary cities and the impact it has had on the state of Illinois. And I believe every sensible resident in Illinois knows these policies have further harmed the economy in Illinois, increased crime throughout our state, and endangered hardworking, law abiding Illinois citizens.

I want to turn my attention to you, Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago. As I have watched you over the last 2 years that you have been Mayor, I have been amazed at how tone deaf you have been and how oblivious you have been to the decline of Chicago. And I say that looking objectively at a number of things, out-of-control crime in Chicago, people scared throughout neighborhoods on the West Side, South Side, North Side. Morale has never been lower with law enforcement and CPD, a record number of police officers leaving the force. We have been hemorrhaging people out of the city of Chicago to the suburbs and elsewhere where they feel safe, a record number of businesses fleeing the city of Chicago.

You couple that with record deficits, \$2 billion dollar deficit line of credit that you just had to take out this week, but you have spent \$300 million of taxpayer money on illegal immigrants. And when I think about all of those things and I look at the strategy you continue to take, I mean, you are putting the interest of illegal immigrants above the interest of taxpayers in Chicago. But you

continue to go down this path, and for the life of me, I cannot understand it. So, Mayor, tell me why you continue to put the interest of illegal immigrants above taxpayers in Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you for your representation. Violent crime is down in Chicago.

Mr. LAHOOD. Well, let me reclaim my time. So, I have a statistic here. Last year, Chicago had 573 murders.

Mr. JOHNSON. Down.

Mr. LAHOOD. OK. But I want to compare that to the city of New York that is almost two-thirds the size of Chicago, 337 murders. So, you had 573 murders in the city of Chicago and you are one-third the size.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is the lowest amount in 5 years under my leadership.

Mr. LAHOOD. OK. And you look at the level of violent criminals, sexual offenses, and drug dealers—

Mr. JOHNSON. All violent crime is down in Chicago. In fact, just this year alone, Congressman, respectfully, there is a 20-percent decrease in violent crime in the city of Chicago under my—

Mr. LAHOOD. I do not agree with your statistics. Now—

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, it is not a matter of whether or not you agree with it. It is a matter of whether it is correct.

Mr. LAHOOD. Let me reclaim my time because I thought you might do this, and when I hear your answer, no one in this room should be surprised that your approval rating is 6.6 percent. Now, that is not just me saying this. *Newsweek* article, the least popular politician in America is Brandon Johnson. So, “a recent poll M3 Strategies conducted this February 20 to 21 showed that Mayor Johnson has a 6.6 percent approval rating, the worst showing of any political figure in the country’s history.” So, I know you are talking about crime is down and things are great and, you know, the city is flush with money. None of that is backed up by the people in the city of Chicago. And so, I am wondering why you continue to go down this path of failed policies, destruction to the city of Chicago, people fleeing, law enforcement at an all-time low. And I am wondering if you have any remorse for that here today, and can tell us why you continue to double down on these failed policies.

Mr. JOHNSON. We have invested \$1.25 billion for housing and economic development, particularly for Black Chicago. It is the largest investment in the history of Chicago, 45-percent increase in youth employment, particularly for Black and Brown children. I will not apologize for my investments in the people of Chicago. We have one of the most diverse economies, the top universities. As violence continues to go down and investments continue to go up, that is what is most important. We have opened up three mental health clinics, the first Black mayor in the history of Chicago to actually invest in—

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Major, I am going to reclaim my time.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. Public health, and I will continue make those investments.

Mr. LAHOOD. Your approval rating speaks volumes, 6.6 percent.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, the people approve of my investments, and I will continue to make those investments. Thank you very much.

Mr. LAHOOD. You are going the wrong direction. You need to reverse your policies on sanctuary cities. That is what the election results were last year. Crime and immigration——

Mr. JOHNSON. Is down in Chicago.

Mr. LAHOOD [continuing]. Were the No. 1 issue in the election from Republicans, Democrats——

Mr. CONNOLLY. Chairman, the gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. JOHNSON. We could use your help to actually help us continue to invest in these programs that continue to drive violence down in the city of Chicago, and I am willing to work with you. And I am glad I had a chance to finally meet you for the first time.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mr. Davis from Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I also want to thank you and Ranking Member Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY. If the gentleman could speak into the microphone so we can hear him.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank you and Ranking Member Connolly for letting me participate in today's hearing. I also want to thank all of the witnesses. I served sometime as a city councilman, so I know what it looks like to be mayor and what happens. Thank you for your service. As a proud Chicagoan, I stand in support of our city's locally elected leaders, namely Mayor Brandon Johnson, who could be back home serving the residents of Chicago but instead is here before us today preserving and protecting the sovereignty of the city of Chicago as a welcoming and humane city.

At a time when immigrants are being blanketly labeled as criminals and targeted haphazardly to field the Trump-Musk Administration's PR-orientated deportation stunt, I am proud that since the enactment of the Illinois Trust Act in 2017, the state of Illinois, Cook County, and the city of Chicago have maintained an ongoing commitment to welcoming those in need, including those that have endured persecution abroad and pressed their way across borders looking and longing for a better life for themselves and their families. I think we all agree that immigration has long played an integral role in the development of American society, culture, and its economy. In recognition of such, the city of Chicago is holding true to its values. As Mayor Johnson has stated on several occasions that Chicago "will remain a welcoming city" despite recent and repeated threats and attempts of coercion from the current Administration to do otherwise.

Likewise, H.R. 32, the supposed No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act that undergirds today's hearing, is drafted in the same threatening, intrusive, and non-constructive manner, as the measure unfairly calls for welcoming jurisdictions to be stripped of Federal funding that we just heard often goes toward supporting critical public safety initiatives and local programming needs. In fact, I would contend that the bill, as drafted, infringes on the constitutional balance of power between states and the Federal Government and will cause more harm than help if enacted.

So, Mr. Mayor Johnson of Chicago, the Windy City, the city of the Big Shoulders, would you share with this Committee what

principles and concepts guide your thoughts and actions as you go about your task of being Mayor for all of these people in Chicago?

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, Congressman Davis, for your leadership, and it is good to see my neighbor here today. You know, look, the city of Chicago, we reflect and we represent the best part of America. It is a diverse city, again, a city that was established by a Black Haitian immigrant and a Potawatomi woman, a city that has invited immigrants from around the world, a city that was built by the formerly enslaved, my ancestors. And it is a very proud moment to not only represent the city of Chicago, but it is my honor.

What we have experienced over the last 20 months since I have been in office, first of all, the city of Chicago is safer. Violent crime has gone down in the city of Chicago by over 20 percent just this year alone. We have invested in housing. We have invested in mental health care. We have invested in youth employment. We have invested in our overall community safety plan, 200 more detectives to solve crime. We are headed in the right direction, and I am grateful for your leadership, and I will look for this body to continue to support these efforts for all of our cities. Thank you.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The Chair recognizes Mr. Evans from Colorado.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member for allowing me to waive on to this Committee. And of course, thank you to the witnesses for taking the time to come and have this conversation.

So, Denver Mayor Johnston, I am a Colorado native, grew up in and around the Denver Metro area, also Latino, grandson of an immigrant from Mexico, and I also served for 12 years in the U.S. Army, Colorado Army National Guard, and in the Denver Metro area for another 10 years as a police officer. And unfortunately, as a Denver Metro area police officer, I have seen firsthand how public safety in Colorado and in Denver is plummeting. When I started my law enforcement career, Colorado was ranked 31st in the Nation for our crime rate. We were ranked 3rd in the Nation last year. Denver, 6 years ago, in 2019, they did not even make the top 50 most dangerous cities in the country list. This year, in 2024, 2025, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Denver as the 10th most dangerous city in the country.

Denver has twice the homicide rate as San Francisco. We have lost more than 7,000 Coloradans to illegal drug overdose deaths since 2020, with a significant percentage of that coming from illegal drugs like fentanyl. And we know from criminal intelligence that in the Denver, Colorado area, almost all of that fentanyl is being trafficked by illegal transnational criminal organizations, the Jalisco Cartel and the Sinaloa Cartel. We have seen a massive increase. This is just a recent headline. We have seen an increase in fentanyl, which is the drug of choice of Tren de Aragua in the Denver Metro area. And we have seen headlines that show that overdose deaths in the Denver Metro area remain stubbornly flat, despite falling in pretty much everywhere around the country. In terms of violent crimes, Denver has had over 6,400 violent crimes, so that is including things like 689 sexual assaults, over 1,200 robberies,

over 4,400 aggravated assaults, and, again, depending on which data base you look at, anywhere from 65 to 71 homicides, again, double the homicide rate of San Francisco.

So, the first question to you is, for those homicides, do you know how many of those were committed by people illegally present in the country?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman, and happy to answer that because I think you may have some bad facts. I am happy to clarify them for you. In terms of what is happening in Denver right now, as we know, crime is down in Denver from last year to this——

Mr. EVANS. Reclaiming my time, Mayor. Do you know——

Mr. JOHNSTON. I do want to answer the question you phrased.

Mr. EVANS. Reclaiming my time. Do you know how many of those 65 to 71 homicides were committed by people illegally present in the country? And I am happy to show all of the sources for my facts.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not ask anyone's status at point of arrest. We do not know someone's status, and when they charge, when we arrest them——

[Posters]

Mr. EVANS. Thank you. Thank you for the answer, Mr. Mayor. And I am glad you have brought that up because as you can see displayed here, we actually have a training bulletin to the Denver Police Department, dated January of this year, which pretty much says what you just said, which is that Denver Police Department is prohibited from asking for any information about the national origin, immigration, or citizenship status of any individual. And that is a problem because of the second item that we are going to display here, which is the standard FBI fingerprint card, something that I filled out for over a decade when I was a police officer, which has those items as mandatory fields, location of birth and then the citizenship.

And so, I have heard, being a cop in the Denver Metro area, that police officers in Denver are being told not to fill out those mandatory fields in the FBI fingerprint card, which could potentially indicate why you are unsure of how many of these crimes are being committed by illegal immigrants in your city. So, the second question is, will you allow Denver police officers to fill out all of the information on an FBI fingerprint card to including asking for and recording the citizenship status?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. Right now, under city ordinance, we do not ask someone's status at point of contact, and that does not prejudice in any way our prosecution. We believe it does not matter where someone is from, which crime they have committed.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We are going to charge them aggressively regardless.

Mr. EVANS. So, you are not filling out the FBI fingerprint card as required.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Right now, we are filling out information when folks arrive, and none of that information prevents us from prosecuting them to the full extent of the law, which is what we do.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, not filling out the FBI fingerprint card, which would directly contradict your statement that you want people who are illegally present in the country and committing crimes to be held to account for those crimes. And I think that the statistics that we have gone through in the space of crime show why Denver is specifically cratering in their public safety statistics as compared to major cities around the country.

Mr. JOHNSTON. It is actually false.

Mr. EVANS. I can show you my statistics. And as a police officer, I am here to make sure that we are uplifting the voices of the victims of these crimes who are being taken advantage of in communities that provide sanctuary to dangerous, illegal criminal gangs like Tren de Aragua, which your jail released just last week, we talked about, somebody back into the community. We must take care of our victims. I brought legislation the UPLIFT Act to focus on this. We are here to protect the victims, and, Mayor, I would ask you to join me in that.

Mr. JOHNSTON. We have already done that.

Mr. EVANS. I yield back.

Mr. JOHNSTON. And we will keep doing that. Thank you. I am happy to answer.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Crank from Colorado.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. One moment.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Just a quick UC. I would ask unanimous consent to enter in the record an *NPR* article, entitled, "Criminal Records of January 6 Rioters Pardoned by Trump Include Rape, Domestic Violence," and I would also ask the correspondence between a number of us and the new Attorney General, Pamela Bondi, be entered into the record at this point.

Chairman COMER. Without objection so ordered.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. Now, the Chair recognizes Mr. Crank from Colorado.

Mr. CRANK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to waive on. This is a very important issue to the state of Colorado, and Mayor Johnston, thanks for being here. I know, for all of you, it has been a long day. Appreciate you being here.

Mayor Mike Johnston, Denver has an ordinance that prohibits city and county employees from assisting in the enforcement of Federal immigration laws or inquiring about a person's immigration status. We have just talked about that. The city of Denver also has a legal defense fund to support individuals facing deportation. Denver has received more than 41,000 illegal aliens over the past 2 years, and due to its sanctuary status, has become a popular destination for illegal aliens. It is estimated that Denver spends more than \$180 million a year supporting illegal immigrants, and in rare cases where ICE is able to apprehend an illegal immigrant in Denver jails, Denver forbids that transfer from taking place in the jail.

Now, I just did a ride along with El Paso County sheriffs. That is my home county, Colorado Springs, just an hour away. I just did a ride along with them. For the safety of their officers, and the ICE officials, the community, and the detainee, do transfers in the jail

with El Paso County officers present and with the handcuffs on. Now, that El Paso County method has never, ever resulted in the injury of an officer during the transfer. However, in Denver, you require that Denver Police Department release Tren de Aragua gang members to the “streets” uncuffed and hope that ICE agents are not able to apprehend them on their own. That is the hope.

Let us just be honest. With no Denver Police Department officer there to assist if the situation turns violent, that is irresponsible, and to be clear, there is no Federal law that forces you to do it this way, Mr. Mayor. This policy and the danger that it creates is wholly a result of your policy as the City and County of Denver. Just last week, it resulted in an illegal Tren de Aragua member assaulting and biting an ICE agent because he was uncuffed and he was released by Denver to a parking lot. Now, you are putting police officers who you are sworn to help protect, as their mayor, at risk to score political points, and I think it is outrageous. It is unbecoming to your office, and it is a danger to the people of Colorado and the citizens of Denver.

Now, we have this case, and I know you have talked about it today, Abraham Gonzalez, suspected TdA gang member, released from Denver County Jail, as I mentioned. Due to Colorado sanctuary policies—this is a post by ICE—was forced to arrest him in public. ICE was forced to arrest him in public, where he assaulted officers. Sanctuary policies endanger communities and law enforcement. That is their post.

I would ask that this be entered into the record, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman COMER. Without objection so ordered.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Mayor, yes or no, would you feel safe if you were alone in a parking lot with a Tren de Aragua gang member?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We did not put a situation where someone would—

Mr. CRANK. Just yes or no, would you feel safe if you were in a parking lot alone with a Tren de Aragua member like you make your police officers do or like you make an ICE agent do? Yes or no.

Mr. JOHNSTON. There were six ICE agents on the scene when he was released—

Mr. CRANK. Could you answer my question? Would you feel safe?

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. Without any weapons—

Mr. CRANK. Would you feel safe?

Mr. JOHNSTON [continuing]. In a secure location.

Mr. CRANK. Reclaiming my time. Thank you. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Mayor. You are not going to answer the question. Would Coloradans be safer if ICE had full cooperation from Denver to remove Tren de Aragua gang members, yes or no?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We currently honor those notification requests. We have done it 1,226 times. This is the first time I have ever been aware of there being an incident, which is why I reached out to ICE yesterday.

Mr. CRANK. Full cooperation would be allowing them to come into the jail and doing it in the jail, not in the parking lot. Will you change that? For the safety of your officers and those ICE agents, would you change that?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I reached out to the ICE officers as soon as I heard about this. I have a meeting with them in the coming weeks to talk about the procedure. We have two jails. Ninety percent of the pickups are from the other jail, where we have never had an occurrence like this.

Mr. CRANK. Would you change it?

Mr. JOHNSTON. And so, I am going to sit down with the ICE officers and see if they are——

Mr. CRANK. It is just common sense. You do not do a transfer in the middle of a parking lot when you can do it in a jail. It is common sense. It is common sense.

Mr. JOHNSTON. And common sense, 1,226 times it has worked, and so we are going to figure out what happened.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Mayor, is your highest priority as the Mayor, the citizens? The safety of the citizens of Denver?

Mr. JOHNSTON. My priority as Mayor is to protect public safety for all of my residents.

Mr. CRANK. OK. Last question: have you apologized to the Federal law enforcement agent who was assaulted by a Tren de Aragua gang member because of your failed leadership? Yes or no?

Mr. JOHNSTON. I reached out to the ICE officers yesterday, and I have asked to sit down with them to talk about this procedure and how we can align systems to make sure no other officers get injured.

Mr. CRANK. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Burlison from Missouri.

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I gathered from this hearing, the term “sanctuary cities” seems to mean a sanctuary only for criminals. Throughout this hearing, we have heard countless examples of illegal immigrants with criminal histories being allowed to roam free in these cities and continue to commit crimes and violence against American citizens that should never have happened.

The bottom line is that sanctuary policies are a violation of Federal immigration laws. The states, when they enacted the Constitution in Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, made it very clear that it is in the purview of the Federal Government, not the states, to determine these policies. States should not be flaunting our laws that they gave us the sole responsibility to implement. And yet, Chicago, Denver, New York City, and Boston are aiding and abetting in the furtherance of laws and policies that are in direct defiance of the immigration laws that are passed by Congress. This hearing is important for us, as Congress, to determine ways in which we can use our constitutional powers, such as the power of the purse, to force these and other sanctuary cities into compliance.

My first question, I want to ask Mr. Bier. You have not had a lot of questions today, right?

Mr. BIER. I had enough.

Mr. BURLISON. I want to ask, OK, so are you aware of how much it costs the American taxpayer per illegal immigrant in the United States, roughly?

Mr. BIER. Not on a per capita basis, no.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. The Budget Committee has determined it is almost about \$9,000 in net loss per illegal immigrant.

Mr. BIER. That is definitely not correct.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. You can question, but that is the group that did the research, so let me ask you this. Does Cato support creating taxpayer programs to subsidize other people's healthcare benefits?

Mr. BIER. No, we do not.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. Does Cato support using taxpayer dollars to support people staying in hotels?

Mr. BIER. Definitely not.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. Just wanted to get that cleared up because I was worried where Cato stood.

Mr. Adams, you stated that the migrant crisis—first, I want to ask this question from everybody on the panel. If there is a difference between the ICE detainer and a criminal warrant, which one would you honor?

Mr. ADAMS. I am not quite sure I understand the question. You said there is a difference between an ICE detainer and a criminal warrant?

Mr. BURLISON. Yes.

Mr. ADAMS. We would always honor an ICE detainer that comes with a judicial warrant. That is what the law calls for in the city.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. And do you concur? Is that what you would do?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We always support our criminal warrants with ICE requests, yes.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. Mr. Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSTON. With a criminal warrant, we do. Our local police department with a criminal warrant will collaborate and cooperate with Federal agents.

Mr. BURLISON. And Ms. Wu?

Ms. WU. Whenever there is a criminal warrant from any agency, Boston police enforce it.

Mr. BURLISON. OK. Mr. Johnson, I am concerned about what is happening, obviously, in my neighboring state of Illinois. Let us see. You said that you oppose proposals to eliminate sanctuary protections for illegal immigrants that are convicted of serious crimes. Why do you think it is important to protect even violent criminals?

Mr. JOHNSTON. We do not. We do not protect violent criminals. In fact, my top priority is to make sure that the people of Chicago are safe. Our local law enforcement work hard every single day to ensure that. That is why I invested in more detectives so that we can actually solve crime, and as a result of the work that I have done and my leadership, crime has gone down since I have been Mayor.

Mr. BURLISON. Ms. Wu, you have said multiple times, you made it very clear that you are a welcoming city, knowing that there is a cost to the taxpayer. What is the acceptable number? Is there any acceptable or reasonable limit that you would consider before your city is overrun?

Ms. WU. We are a city that is the safest in the country because everyone feels connected to city services. Everyone can call 9-1-1.

Mr. BURLISON. So, you have no answer. There is no capacity that is too much.

Ms. WU. Congressman, respectfully, I am the Mayor of Boston. I do not get to decide who comes into our country and where they go after that. Our job is to keep people fed and healthy and safe when they arrive in our city, and we do that in order to make sure that everyone across our community is safe. Resources are strained, but I would ask you to please do your job and be part of passing bipartisan legislation that would allow us to do what we want to do.

Mr. BURLISON. We did. We passed H.R. 2. Well, what has been made very clear is that we do not need to pass laws. All we need is a new President. My time has expired.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. They have called for votes, but we have one last questioner—Mr. Hurd from Colorado.

Mr. HURD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mayor Johnston, it is nice to see you. Thanks for coming.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Good to see you.

Mr. HURD. I have a question about Denver's policies that I fear made it a magnet for migrants and have drawn tens of thousands to Denver in a short amount of time. Given the strain that is being placed on city resources, is there a limit? And this might be similar to a question that was just asked before. If another wave of arrivals begins, does Denver have a contingency plan, or is the commitment to being a sanctuary city truly open ended no matter how many come?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman, and we have adjusted our policies when we were facing some of the fiscal crisis around this. We were hoping for the Senate bipartisan immigration bill to pass, which would have provided some resources to the interior cities. That did not, we had to make adjustments. And so, what we have done now is we have really focused on connecting people to work. So, those folks that arrive, we think the most important thing is for them to be able to work and support themselves, pay their own taxes, pay their own rent. And so, we have run work authorization clinics to help people get legal work authorization. If this body could help us accelerate the rate of work authorization, we would not need to spend any public resources at all because folks want jobs, they could support themselves, so that has been our real focus. The more folks we work authorized, we have been able to then need to provide fewer resources around housing, shelter, food, et cetera.

Mr. HURD. Are you concerned that Denver could be reaching a breaking point soon?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. We actually are seeing dramatic drops in the arrivals since June 2024, so we are not in a moment of crisis right now. We do not have migrant encampments. We have closed all of our shelters. We have actually dropped our spending on migrant supports by 90 percent from 2024 to 2025, so our expenditures are down dramatically, and we would love to see it stay that way.

Mr. HURD. How about my concern about incentivizing certain actions? Do you have any concrete evidence that sanctuary policies have not made Denver more vulnerable to crime?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. We do have concrete evidence that even as 42,000 newcomers have arrived in the city over the last 18 months, our crime has gone down in Denver. And so, shootings are down 24 percent. Homicide is down 17 percent. Auto theft is down almost 30 percent. So, we have seen all of those major drivers go down at the same time we have had new folks arrive.

Mr. HURD. And that is because of the sanctuary policies or in spite of them, or what would those numbers be absent the policies in Denver that incentivize these behaviors?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, Congressman. We see them as unrelated. We are continuing to make a strong stand on public safety, we are continuing to find ways to integrate folks who have arrived on our city in the middle of the winter with no clothes or support, and we have been able to do both. We have also made historic reductions in homelessness at the same time that we were facing this. I declared an emergency on homelessness because that was our top priority, and we have become the largest big city in America to end the cycle of street homelessness for veterans. So, that has been equal part of our focus at the same time.

Mr. HURD. So, just so I am clear on your testimony, you do not believe that there is any evidence that the city of Denver's policies have made Denver more vulnerable to crime?

Mr. JOHNSTON. No, sir. I do not see any evidence that it has.

Mr. HURD. OK. If violent criminals are exploiting these protections, are you willing to reconsider aspects of the city's policies to prioritize public safety?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. We are very aggressively pursuing violent criminals right now. In fact, we are doing it in collaboration with many Federal agencies. We have a R.A.V.E.N Task Force we launched, which has been focused on disrupting gang activity. That is why we have been so successful in managing and reducing the presence of TdA in the city. It is how we helped reduce the presence of MS-13. So, we have aggressive actions going, we are partnering with Federal agents, and that is working.

Mr. HURD. One of the concerns that I have heard, Mayor Johnston, in Western Colorado and Colorado's 3d Congressional District, and also in Southern Colorado, is that there are illegal immigrants here that are coming to or that are in Denver that are then relocating to Western and Southern Colorado. Are you aware or can you confirm that the illegal migrants that are in Denver, that were in Denver, have stayed in your city and not traveled to other parts of the state?

Mr. JOHNSTON. Thank you, sir. Obviously, as you know, when folks arrive to Denver, whether they come from Carbondale or Grand Junction or Chicago, we do not track where they go. It is a free country. If they choose to move to Lakewood or to move to Pueblo, we would not know. We just provide the emergency services to make sure they are not freezing on the streets, and so that is our focus. But we do not track anyone's long-term trajectory, whether they are a native born or an immigrant.

Mr. HURD. Would it surprise you if there were individuals that were leaving Denver that were relocating to other parts of Colorado?

Mr. JOHNSTON. It would not surprise me that folks were moving, in the same way it does not surprise us that folks are constantly relocating to Denver from other parts of the country as well.

Mr. HURD. OK. Thank you very much, Mr. Johnston. Mr. Chairman, I see my time has almost expired, and I yield the remainder back.

Chairman COMER. Well, thank you very much. And that is it. In closing, I want to thank our witnesses for being here today. And believe it or not, this is the best behaved this Committee has been all Congress, so I want to compliment my Ranking Member, Mr. Connolly. And again, thank you for your testimony today. I look forward to further discussion.

Now, with that and without objection, all Members have 5 legislative days within which to submit materials and additional written questions for the witnesses, which will be forwarded to the witnesses.

If there is no further business, without objection, the Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:06 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

