

October 28, 2025

Acting Director Todd Lyons
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Lyons,

I write to request information regarding recent ICE activity in Stockton over the weekend of October 25th 2025. Given the impact these events have had on my constituents, I am requesting the following information no later than November 7, 2025. If I have not received a response, I will pursue all available oversight tools.

According to witnesses, ICE directed roughly 50 residents to appear for unexpected Saturday appointments at the Stockton field office. Many of these residents were already cooperating with existing check-in/compliance programs with your agency. When they arrived at the field office, which is typically closed on Saturdays, approximately half were detained. Attorneys on site say they were denied access to clients or told ICE would not recognize them, despite showing valid bar IDs.

Community members outside the building reported that an officer used a chemical spray on a protester. The following business day, constituents arriving for regular weekday check-ins found the Stockton office closed without instructions on where to report. Constituents report that many of those detained have no criminal record and are long-time San Joaquin Valley residents. This was a seemingly intentional sweep to meet detention quotas, with no public safety goal.

Alleged concerning ICE activity included: (1) calling people in for “check-ins” and then detaining them without notice; (2) blocking or delaying access to counsel; (3) use of chemical agents and force on peaceful observers; (4) refusing to disclose where detainees were taken; and (5) potentially detaining and/or arresting U.S. citizens. These allegations raise serious due process, civil rights, and safety concerns.

Similar tactics have been seen across California and other states, including masked agents, large-volume detentions of nonviolent residents, and reported detention of U.S. citizens. This weekend’s events in Stockton appear to be part of that pattern.

ICE is a federal law enforcement agency. My constituents are entitled to due process, access to counsel, and basic transparency. To that end, I am requesting the following information no later than November 7, 2025:

1. Explain how abruptly detaining dozens of people who voluntarily appeared for compliance check-ins, then closing the local office without clear instructions, is consistent with ICE's stated community safety mission.
2. Describe all uses of force connected to the Stockton operation or the protest outside the Stockton office, including any use of chemical spray, zip-ties, or other crowd-control measures.
3. Identify the immigration status of residents detained by ICE, including whether any US citizens were arrested.
4. Provide ICE policy on access to counsel at in-person check-ins, and state whether that policy was followed in Stockton. Include any written guidance given to Stockton personnel regarding attorney access on October 25–26, 2025.
5. Clarify ICE's policy and process with regard to informing families and/or loved ones as to the rights and whereabouts of the detained individuals.

People in Stockton are now afraid to appear for required ICE appointments, to ask where a detained family member was taken, or to cooperate with law enforcement at all. My constituents deserve clarity and accountability from the federal government.

Please provide your responses electronically to my office no later than November 7, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress