



DANIEL LURIE
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
1245 3RD Street
San Francisco, California 94158



DERRICK J. LEW
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 9, 2026

Supervisor Matt Dorsey
Chair, Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Dorsey:

RE: File No. 260307 – Condemning ICE Action at San Francisco International Airport

I am writing to provide information regarding the San Francisco Police Department's response to the March 22, 2026, incident at San Francisco International Airport.

To begin, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) fully supports and is committed to serving San Francisco's immigrant communities. The City's Sanctuary laws are an important part of how the Department operates. SFPD does not participate in federal civil immigration enforcement, City resources are not used to support those activities, and services to the public are provided regardless of immigration status.

These policies are rooted in public safety because community trust leads to reporting crime and cooperation with local law enforcement, which makes communities safer. Public safety is undermined when that trust is eroded.

To reiterate, the Department does not coordinate with, plan with, or cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in civil immigration enforcement. That policy is longstanding and unchanged. At the same time, the Department cannot interfere with federal immigration enforcement.

With respect to the March 22 incident, it is important to walk through the evolution of the call for service. At approximately 10:00 p.m., SFPD received a 911 call for service reporting a female crying at SFO Terminal 3 and requesting a well-being check. During that response, officers received additional information that there were two males and one woman involved in some sort of dispute. Officers interpreted the situation as a possible domestic dispute based on the information available at the time.

When the first officers arrived on scene, they immediately observed a large, active crowd, and requested additional units including supervisors. Additional units and supervisors arrived shortly after and observed two plainclothes individuals, later identified as ICE agents, along with additional uniformed federal officers from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, wearing blue uniforms similar to SFPD.

An SFPD lieutenant made contact with the involved parties and confirmed that the individuals were ICE agents and that the activity was a federal immigration enforcement action. From that point forward, SFPD's role was limited to public safety. Officers maintained order and helped de-escalate the scene through their presence.

SFPD did not participate in or assist with the enforcement action. Officers did not detain, handcuff, or physically restrain any individual, and did not escort the detained individual. Any apparent escort recorded on video was not conducted by SFPD. Officers were present solely in a public safety capacity, and their positioning on scene was for crowd management and de-escalation only.

To be clear, there was no planning or coordination with federal agencies. The scale of SFPD's response reflects the evolution of the 911 call and the conditions officers encountered upon arrival.

As Chief, I want to provide this account so that the Department's actions are accurately reflected, and to state clearly SFPD's commitment to San Francisco's Sanctuary City laws and to maintaining the trust of our immigrant communities.

Please reach out if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Lew", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DERRICK J. LEW
Chief of Police