

# ICE seen using Suffolk police lot

**PARKING** from A2

On Long Island, the campaign has provoked alarm in Latino communities. A Brentwood mother of five was separated from her children last June and now sits in an ICE jail in Texas. An honors student at Suffolk County Community College ended up deported to Colombia. A Honduran man's head was smashed into a brick wall during his arrest by ICE agents in Hempstead in January.

Suffolk County police have long had a contentious relationship with the Latino community dating to several high-profile hate crimes in the 2000s that led to allegations police were not doing enough to protect Hispanics or properly investigate hate crimes against them, said Patrick Young, a professor of immigration law at Hofstra Law School and a long-time immigration lawyer and advocate. After a group of teens beat and stabbed to death an Ecuadorian immigrant in Patchogue in 2008, the department was put under a federal monitoring program. That ended last August.

In the last several years, the department has tried to build a better relationship with Latinos, Young said, though "that's going to disappear if people see ICE in the police department" parking lots. "There won't be a debate. People will say they're working with ICE."

## Detainees wait for transport

On Sunday, police said they had received a 911 call of an erratic vehicle, which officers located in a 7-Eleven parking lot.

"While administering field sobriety tests to the driver, ICE agents pulled into the parking lot and independently detained several individuals," the Suffolk police department statement said. "ICE then left the 7-Eleven and arrived at the Second Precinct parking lot, where they transferred multiple people to ICE vehicles."

Detainees "waited for transport in the parking lot," the police statement said.

Suffolk police did not respond to questions about whether ICE agents or migrants they detained entered the precinct building.

In a statement, ICE said: "ICE

agents are sworn law enforcement officers who conduct targeted enforcement operations nationwide every single day to protect Americans — this is not new, nor will it change. ICE will continue to make arrests across the country including on Long Island. 7 of the top 10 safest cities in the United States cooperate with ICE."

Generally, ICE has the right to use public spaces such as the parking lots of fire departments, police stations, stores and other areas, according to legal experts, though in some cases ICE could be blocked if the departments do not consent.

Some counties that have joint-task force agreements with federal law enforcement typically allow ICE or other agencies to park at police precincts, though if they end the agreement they could prevent ICE from using the lots, said Ian H. Marcus Amelkin, an associate professor at Hofstra Law School.

## Activists' encounter

On Sunday morning, anti-ICE activist Osman Canales, who travels Long Island tracking ICE activity and alerting the public to it on his Facebook page, told his followers ICE vehicles were heading to the 2nd Precinct. He urged them to go. At least a half-dozen did.

A video Canales made of his encounter at the precinct shows two immigration agents in the back parking lot — which is restricted to police and other officials — standing next to a vehicle as Canales approaches.

"Shame on you! Shame on you, using police!" Canales is heard yelling at the agents.

The agents, then joined by a third, are seen walking toward Canales and apparently telling him to get out of the lot.

"I'm moving. I'm moving," Canales said. "You don't have to come toward me."

Then a uniformed Suffolk County cop appears.

"Why are they here? Why are they here?" Canales said to the officer as he apparently continues walking away to exit the lot. "Why are you working with ICE?"

"I'm not working with ICE," the officer responded.

"Yes you are," Canales said. "Why are they here?"



A coalition of community groups met to call on Nassau to end ICE relationship. ■ Video: newsday.tv

# Nassau County must sever ties with ICE, coalition says

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Representatives from more than 20 Long Island community groups urged Nassau County to sever its partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a news conference on Thursday in Hempstead.

The community advocates also urged state lawmakers to approve legislation — the New York For All Act — that would bar state and local agencies from collaborating with federal immigration officials.

One speaker said immigrants detained at the Nassau County jail as part of Nassau's 287(g) agreement with ICE face horrid conditions, including overcrowding, inadequate heating and a lack of food and water. More than half held through mid-October, the most recent information available, did not have a criminal record, according to data obtained by Newsday.

"We have never seen conditions that now exist in the Nassau County jail as deplorable as they are currently," said Serena Martin, executive director of New Hour for Women and Children, which has provided services to women incarcerated on Long Island for 14 years.

The news conference, held at the Hempstead law offices of civil rights attorney Frederick K. Brewington, was organized by Corridor Counts, a coalition of the Long Island organizations

represented at the event, and by Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability, which pushes for transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

"We've decided to come together to speak in one voice in saying, 'ICE no more,'" said Brewington, a member of LIAPA. "ICE needs to be out."

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, a supporter of President Donald Trump's mass deportation policy and the Republican candidate for governor, announced in February 2025 the Nassau police department would assign 10 detectives to work with ICE under a 287(g) agreement. The agreement is named after a provision in federal law that allows ICE to deputize local officers for immigration enforcement. The county also agreed to set aside 50 jail cells for immigrants without documentation who are facing criminal charges.

In a statement to Newsday on Thursday afternoon, Blakeman said immigrants with criminal records had been removed from Nassau County since his administration began cooperating with ICE, "making it safer for the men, women and children who live in our communities."

Sonia Arora, of the Long Island Immigrant Justice Alliance, said she attended the news conference because of an 8-year-old girl whose father is detained.

"Her world has been turned upside down," Arora said. "She's traumatized. She's strug-

gling in school, and that stability and sense of safety that every child should have is being shattered."

Nassau officials held more than 2,600 immigrants at the Nassau County Correctional Center in East Meadow last year on behalf of ICE, county data obtained by Newsday shows.

Many Americans have been outraged by the Trump administration's aggressive enforcement tactics. In Nassau, those fears were further fueled when a 42-year-old immigrant died in September in Nassau's jail. ICE officials blamed the man's death on liver failure, a claim his family disputed.

Brewington said immigration officers had committed "atrocities" not only in Minnesota and California, but also in Hauppauge and Hempstead. Leaders in Suffolk and Nassau should tell ICE it has "no place in our communities," he said.

"They need to stop the terror, because what they are doing is ripping families apart in a way that is just inhuman," Brewington said.

Arora is also a member of the Port Washington Rapid Response Network, which monitors ICE and issues alerts. She said members were documenting ICE vehicles and the names of agents.

"History shows us that when abuses are recorded and remembered, justice follows," she said. "We are watching and we are demanding action."