

ACLU Files 'Freedom of Information Act' Request with ICE

The civil liberties group wants to know how the federal immigration enforcement agency is operating in Oregon communities

By *Melanie Sevcenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

The ACLU of Oregon filed a Freedom of Information Act request last week with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the federal law enforcement agency that governs border control.

The request comes on the heels of the ICE's attempt to detain Isidro Andrade-Tafolla, 46, and his wife on Sept. 18.

Dressed in plainclothes, two ICE agents in an unmarked vehicle surrounded the Forest Grove couple as they left the Washington County courthouse in Hillsboro, Ore.

Footage of the altercation was captured by a volunteer legal observer using the ACLU's Mobile Justice smartphone app.

The video revealed that the federal immigration agents did not identify themselves – or present a warrant for arrest – yet demanded to see Andrade-Tafolla's identity documents.

As explained by Andrade-Tafolla's wife in the video, the couple was shown a mugshot of a man, after which the agents told Andrade-Tafolla that it was him in the photo.

Andrade-Tafolla, who came from Mexico in 1981 at the age of 10, protested the claim and said the only resemblance was skin color. He became an American citizen in 1996 and has been employee of the county's Land Use and Transportation Department for almost 20 years.

The couple was left alone only after additional agents approached the scene and communicated that they had the wrong man.



Andrade-Tafolla and his wife as ICE agents attempt to detain them on Sept. 18, 2017

The attempted arrests were criticized by Washington County Sheriff Pat Garret, as well as U.S. Reps. Suzanne Bonamici and Earl Blumenauer, who asked that ICE apologize to Andrade-Tafolla and for an explanation into its questionable practices.

"Targeting U.S. citizens on the basis of race is a clear violation on their constitutional rights," wrote the representatives in a letter to Elizabeth Godfrey, deputy field director for the ICE Removal Operations in Portland.

The ACLU of Oregon filed the request to gather more information on how federal immigration agents are conducting operations in Oregon, exacerbated further, it says, by President Trump's race-based attacks on immigrants and refugees in the U.S.

"We submitted this FOIA request so that we can learn more about how ICE is using racial profiling to make arrests in Oregon," said Mat dos Santos, legal director at the ACLU of Oregon, in a

statement.

The request details how, soon after President Trump assumed office, the group began receiving lawyer-penned reports of ICE agents stopping their Latino clients around courthouses in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties.

In the request, the civil liberties group also notes that California, New York, Connecticut, Colorado and Washington have joined forces, formally requesting that the ICE not make arrests in or around their courthouses.

Stacey Adams Wants to be America's First Black Female Governor

Will Stacey Abrams Be America's First Black Female Governor in U.S. History?

By *Stacy M. Brown* (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

The GOP has held a tight grip on the governor's mansion in Georgia since 2002, when Sonny Perdue, promising to restore the Confederate battle cross to the state flag, defeated Democratic incumbent Roy Barnes to become the first Republican to hold the position in the Peach State since Reconstruction.

But, a motivated Democrat is looking to change that and shatter a glass ceiling that has never been broken in the United States.

Stacey Abrams, the Georgia state house minority leader, who holds degrees from Spelman College and the Yale School of Law, is seeking to become America's first Black female governor.

"It's a very humbling experience to know that, if I win this election, I would have achieved something that Black women, as far back as Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm, have fought for, not necessarily the same job, but transforming how we think about leadership in America," Abrams said in an interview with the NNPA Newswire. "Physically claiming that mantle of leadership and holding it signals that anything is possible and we can redefine what leadership looks like and who we can lift up."

Abrams, 43, said she's undaunted by the stranglehold the GOP has had on the governor's mansion for the past 15 years.

She said Georgia will likely be a majority-minority state in the coming years which provides Democrats more of an opportunity to claim the seat next year.

Abrams noted that Democrats have gained steamed, citing the 2006 race where the party lost by nearly 400,000



Georgia state house minority leader Stacey Abrams is running to become America's first Black female governor.

votes but significantly closed the gap during the last election in 2014, coming within less than 200,000 votes of victory.

Four Republicans—Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle; Secretary of State Brian Kemp; State Senator Hunter Hill; and State Senator Michael Williams and two Democrats—Abrams and State Representative Stacey Evans—have declared their candidacy for the post.

The New Georgia Project, a non-partisan voter registration group, that Abrams launched three years ago, may also help her candidacy.

"It's the single largest voter registration effort in recent memory in Georgia and we have been able to register more than 200,000 people of color in Georgia to vote," Abrams said. "I just don't talk, I have a record that we need to talk about."

The Guardian reported that, Abrams is "One of six children born to Meth-

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Project Updates

The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to provide input on amendments to projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

On the 1st and 16th of each month, ODOT will post for review changes made in the previous 15 days to projects in the STIP; we invite you to check in regularly and provide comments.

Please visit:
www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/STIP/Pages/STIPDocs.aspx
 (under the heading "STIP Amendments for Public Review").

Send comments to:
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