

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 17, 2025
TO Chair Cara Mendelsohn, Committee on Public Safety
Chair Maxie Johnson, Committee on Government Efficiency
SUBJECT **Joint Public Safety / Government Efficiency Meeting**

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs:

Your committees are charged with two of my highest mayoral priorities: public safety and government efficiency. While these priorities are often advanced independently, there are areas of overlap. One such area is the opportunity for other state and federal law enforcement agencies to supplement or subsidize the Dallas Police Department's public safety activities.

This type of partnership has already produced good results in Dallas. For example, the Dallas Police Department recently partnered with the U.S. Marshals on Operation Justice Trail, and it often partners with the Drug Enforcement Agency on high-profile drug enforcement operations. These partnerships benefit Dallas residents and taxpayers by increasing public safety with little or no budgetary impact.

This week, it was widely reported that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offered the City of Dallas \$25 million to participate in ICE's 287(g) program. Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows ICE to delegate to state and local law enforcement officers the authority to perform certain immigration officer functions. To implement section 287(g), ICE has created three partnership models. Two of these models focus on correctional institutions, while the third—the Task Force Model—focuses on officers working in the field. This model is applicable to the Dallas Police Department.

Dallas Police Chief Daniel Comeaux recently told the Community Police Oversight Board that he unilaterally rejected ICE's \$25 million offer. As the elected body charged with setting City policy and overseeing its budget, the City Council should be briefed on all the relevant information that went into Chief Comeaux's decision in a public meeting and with an opportunity for input from residents.

As of July 2025, more than 100 Texas law enforcement agencies were participating in the 287(g) program. Now, under SB8, almost all Texas counties—including Dallas County—are required to participate. ICE recently announced reimbursement opportunities for local law enforcement agencies that participate in the 287(g) program and will now "fully reimburse participating agencies for the annual salary and benefits of each eligible trained 287(g) officer,

including overtime coverage up to 25% of the officer's annual salary.”¹ Clearly, participation in ICE's Task Force Model *could* provide significant financial benefits to the city. The Dallas Police Department could use these funds to, for example, hire additional officers with no impact on the city's budget. Dallas might be forfeiting significant direct financial benefits by declining ICE's offer. Therefore, I am now asking your committees to explore the potential benefits of participating in the 287(g) program.

Beyond the direct financial benefits, the Dallas Police Department participating in the 287(g) program might also provide additional avenues for taking and—more importantly—for keeping criminals off our streets. And we know that keeping criminals, especially violent repeat offenders, off our streets is the best way to reduce violent crime and enhance public safety. Thus, this program could act as a “force multiplier,” providing a path for the Dallas Police Department to deploy additional resources to reduce violent crime at lower cost to taxpayers.

Decisions on matters like this—especially one involving \$25 million of public funds—should be made by elected policymakers after receiving public input. Accordingly, please convene a joint meeting of your committees as soon as possible to be briefed by ICE representatives and Chief Comeaux on the 287(g) program and specifically on ICE's offer of \$25 million to Dallas. With this information, you should then determine what, if any, financial efficiencies and public safety benefits Dallas might achieve by participating in ICE's Task Force Model through the Dallas Police Department. You can then bring the matter to the full City Council with a thoroughly vetted recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Together, we can continue to make our city government more efficient and responsible and make Dallas safer, stronger, and more vibrant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric L. Johnson
Mayor

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager
Daniel Comeaux, Chief of Police
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Tammy Palamino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor

¹<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/02/dhs-announces-new-reimbursement-opportunities-state-and-local-law-enforcement>