

Houston Field Office  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
126 Northpoint  
Houston, Texas 77060



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

August 8, 2011

Chief Robert Wieners  
1600 Whitaker  
Friendswood, TX 77546

Dear Chief:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) mission is to identify, arrest, and remove aliens who present a danger to national security or are a risk to public safety, as well as those who enter the United States illegally or otherwise undermine the integrity of our immigration laws and border control efforts. ERO upholds America's immigration laws at, within and beyond our borders through efficient enforcement and removal operations.

When aliens are identified by ICE as removable and a decision is made that enforcement actions are appropriate, a detainer may be filed by ERO. The detainer provides information and guidance related to the detention authority of the law enforcement agency. The following guidance is provided to clarify the authority of the law enforcement agency to detain at the request of ICE.

*A detainer issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) allows a law enforcement agency to maintain custody of an alien for a period **NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS**, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, beyond the time when the alien would have otherwise been released from your custody to allow DHS to take custody of the subject. This request flows from federal regulations 8 C.F.R §287.7 which provides that a law enforcement agency 'shall maintain custody of an alien' once a detainer has been issued by DHS. **You are not authorized to hold the subject beyond these 48 hours.** As early as possible prior to the time you would otherwise release the subject, please notify the DHS entity who issued the detainer by calling the phone numbers listed on the detainer. If you cannot reach a Department Official at these numbers, please contact the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center in Burlington, Vermont, at (802)872-6020.*

The Houston Field Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) is responsible for enforcement of civil and criminal laws related to immigration enforcement within the fifty-four counties in southeast Texas.

The Houston Field Office operates a Secure Communities Support Command Center open 24/7 to support the law enforcement agencies. The attachment provides additional information about our operation. The Houston Field Office has an established transportation schedule that allows ICE to take custody of aliens with detainers within the 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. Simply, contact our command center to make arrangements for the transfer of aliens with active detainers into ICE custody.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Landgrebe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kenneth L. Landgrebe  
Field Office Director  
Immigrations and Customs Enforcement  
Enforcement and Removal Operations

Detention & Removal Operations  
Criminal Alien Program  
5520 Greens Rd.  
Houston, Texas 77032



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

## Secure Community Command Center

The Secure Communities plan responds to the identification challenge by using biometric identification technologies currently in use by the FBI and other parts of DHS, and combines them in a new, powerful way.

The technology enables local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to initiate an integrated records check of criminal history and immigration status for individuals in their custody.

A single submission of fingerprints as part of the normal criminal arrest / booking process automatically will check both the Integrated Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division and the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) of Homeland Security's United States Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program.

When there is a fingerprint match in both systems, ICE and the local Law Enforcement Agency that encountered the individual are automatically notified, in parallel.

ICE evaluates each case to determine the individual's immigration status and provides a timely response to local law enforcement partners—usually within a few hours. Secure Communities is committed to responding around the clock, corresponding to the real-time needs of its local law enforcement partners.

The Secure Communities plan has adopted a risk-based approach to prioritizing enforcement actions in order to maximize the impact on public safety. By assessing the risk each criminal alien poses to the public, ICE focuses immigration enforcement on the most dangerous criminal aliens first.

The most dangerous criminal aliens are individuals who have been previously convicted of or who are currently charged with a Level 1 offense—national security, homicide, kidnapping, assault, robbery, sex offenses and narcotics crimes that carry a sentence of greater than one year.

By prioritizing immigration enforcement actions on the most dangerous criminals, from apprehension through removal from the United States, ICE uses its resources judiciously. The Secure Communities plan enables ICE to strengthen public safety while reducing disruption to law-abiding immigrant families and communities.

The Houston Field Office has deployed a 24 hour Secure Community Command Center (SCCC) to service the needs of the local law enforcement community. The SCCC is staffed 24 hours a day by agents assigned to the Criminal Alien Program. The SCCC agents will evaluate and respond to submissions made through this system within a few hours of the submission.

Please submit your local Point of Contact information to the e-mail address listed below. Please submit a point of contact name, direct telephone number, fax number and if possible e-mail address. This will allow the local ICE CAP Office to assist and respond to the needs of the local law enforcement community in a more efficient and expedient manner.

**Law Enforcement Sensitive-For Official Use Only- Do Not Distribute**

**24 Hour SCCC Phone Number.....(281)985-8554**

**24 Hour SCCC Fax Number.....(281)985-8463**

**CAP.HOUSTON@DHS.GOV**



RESTRICTED USE INTENDED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS

**Criminal Alien Program (CAP)**

The mission of the Criminal Alien Program (CAP) is to provide ICE-wide direction and support in the identification and apprehension of criminal aliens who are incarcerated within tribal, federal, state, and local prisons and jails. The Houston Field Office Area of Responsibility (AOR) currently covers 54 counties listed below.

**Houston Field Office, Criminal Alien Division, Area of Responsibility (AOR):**

**Counties:**

|          |           |           |             |               |              |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Angelina | Chambers  | Harris    | Lee         | Newton        | San Patricio |
| Aransas  | Colorado  | Houston   | Leon        | Nueces        | Shelby       |
| Austin   | DeWitt    | Jackson   | Liberty     | Orange        | Trinity      |
| Bee      | Fayette   | Jasper    | Live Oak    | Polk          | Tyler        |
| Brazoria | Fort Bend | Jefferson | Madison     | Refugio       | Victoria     |
| Brazos   | Galveston | Jim Wells | Matagorda   | Robertson     | Walker       |
| Brooks   | Goliad    | Kenedy    | Milam       | Sabine        | Waller       |
| Burleson | Grimes    | Kleberg   | Montgomery  | San Augustine | Washington   |
| Calhoun  | Hardin    | Lavaca    | Nacogdoches | San Jacinto   | Wharton      |

**Secure Communities (SC)**

The program applies a risk-based approach of identifying and removing criminal aliens. All 254 Texas county jails and the Texas State Prison System participate in the program.

**Secure Communities Command Center (SCCC)**

The Houston Secure Communities Command Center is a 24/7 operation in support of the Criminal Alien Division. The SCCC is staffed by Immigration Enforcement Agents who respond to Law Enforcement Agencies' requests for assistance to determine an arrested person's immigration status.

**Secure Communities Resolution Team (SCRT)**

The Secure Communities Resolution Team (SCRT) team partners with tribal, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to arrest at-large criminal aliens who are not presently incarcerated.

**287(g) Program**

This program refers to authority under the Immigration & Nationality Act's Section 287(g), which permits for training/deputizing state and local officers to perform ICE related duties, primarily in a correctional institution setting. The Houston Field Office AOR currently has one active 287(g) Program located at the Harris County Jail. The Harris County Sheriff's Office and Designated Immigration Officers and ICE CAP officers are assigned 24/7 to the Harris County Jail.

**Violent Criminal Alien Section (VCAS)**

The Violent Criminal Alien Section (VCAS) was created under operation "Repeat Offender" in an effort to increase deterrence and reduce future recidivism rates of violent criminal aliens. The VCAS screens recidivist criminal aliens encountered through CAP, the National Fugitive Operations Program, the Secure Communities Resolution Team and the Law Enforcement Agency Response Unit. In coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAO), the VCAS works to prioritize the federal criminal prosecution of egregious recidivist criminal aliens for felony violations.

ICE Command Center 24 Hour Phone Line.....(281) 985-8554 - this line rolls to 4 phones

FAX....(281) 985-8463 or (281) (987)-0388

If available please provide arrest information, booking sheet, identity numbers (current jail ID number, & if known - SID, FBI, & Alien File Number) & medical observation = appears well & healthy or list observed medical challenge. ICE medical will consult with your Health Care Administrator.

WARNING: This document has been designated DHS Law Enforcement Sensitive and is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS and ICE policy relating to Law Enforcement Sensitive information. This information can be distributed further within DHS on a need-to-know basis; however, it may not be distributed outside DHS without authorization from the originating office. Nothing in this document should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

REVISED: February 9, 2011



## Keeping Your Community Safe

ICE is improving public safety by working to better identify, detain and ultimately remove dangerous criminal aliens from your community. Through the Secure Communities initiative, ICE is enhancing biometric technology used by local law enforcement during the booking process to quickly and accurately determine the immigration status of individuals arrested. As a result, ICE takes appropriate enforcement action against removable aliens, focusing first on those who have been charged with or convicted of the most dangerous crimes.

**Secure Communities  
removes  
dangerous criminals  
from your community.**



# ICE

Secure  
Communities

Report Suspicious Activity:

**1-866-DHS-2-ICE**

1-866-347-2423

[www.ice.gov/secure\\_communities](http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities)

01/2010



# Secure Communities

A Modernized Approach  
to Identifying and Removing  
Criminal Aliens

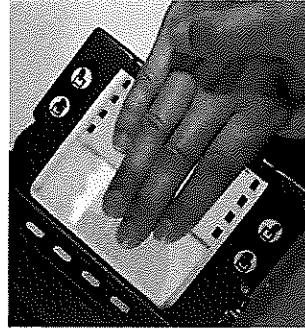
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**ICE ERO CAP**  
5520 Greens Rd., Houston, TX 77032  
Secured Communities Command Center  
Available 24/7  
Phone: (281) 985-8554  
Fax: (281) 987-0388



U.S. Immigration  
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Enforcement

## Identifying and Removing Dangerous Threats to Your Community

Through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice, Secure Communities enhances fingerprint-based biometric technology used by local law enforcement agencies during their booking process. This enhanced technology enables fingerprints submitted during the booking process to be checked against FBI criminal history records and DHS records, including immigration status, providing valuable information to accurately identify those in custody. This process applies to all individuals arrested and booked into custody, not just those suspected as being foreign nationals.



When fingerprints match DHS records, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is notified and promptly determines if enforcement action is required. Secure Communities does not authorize local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws.

ICE prioritizes the removal of criminal aliens by focusing efforts on the most dangerous and violent offenders. This includes criminal aliens determined to be removable and charged with or convicted of crimes such as homicide, rape, robbery, kidnapping, major drug offenses, or those involving threats to national security.

## Building for Long-Term Success

Secure Communities is leading ICE's efforts to transform each stage of the criminal alien enforcement process, including the early identification, detention and removal of criminal aliens within the United States. ICE is creating efficiencies through process improvements and enhanced technologies.



As a part of Secure Communities, ICE is maximizing the use of detention and removal resources through improved tracking systems and better management of bed space, transportation and personnel in order to accommodate the increased number of criminal aliens identified. These efforts, combined with the nationwide deployment

of enhanced biometric identification technology expected by 2013, enable ICE to focus resources on assisting local communities.

## Working With Your Community

The success of Secure Communities is dependent upon the dedication and support of the law enforcement community. The Secure Communities initiative brings together federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement partners to identify and remove criminal aliens, reducing the dangers they pose within our society.

## Real Cases: Biometrics Uncover Criminal Aliens Around the Country

These individuals share something in common beyond their violent criminal history—all were quickly identified as criminal aliens through biometric technology and removed from the U.S. by federal authorities.

**Drug Possession and Assault with a Weapon**

Los Angeles, Calif.



**MS-13 Gang Member**

Dallas, Texas



**Rape and Assault with Intent to Kill**

Boston, Mass.



**51 Previous Arrests and 16 Aliases**

Florence, Ariz.



**Illegal Possession of a Firearm and Controlled Substance**

Philadelphia, Pa.



**We are partnering with federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement in your community to identify and remove criminal aliens who threaten your security.**