

OPEN LETTER FROM ILLINOIS OFFICIALS CONDEMNING FEDERAL CHARGES AGAINST THE BROADVIEW SIX

We, the undersigned, write to condemn the Trump administration's decision to file federal charges against a group of six people, including candidates, local officials, and activists, for protesting at the Broadview ICE facility.

Congressional candidate Kat Abughazaleh, County Board candidate Cat Sharp, Committeeperson Michael Rabbitt, Oak Park Trustee Brian Straw, Joselyn Walsh, and Andre Martin now face prosecution for simply exercising their First Amendment rights.

This follows a disturbing national pattern, from the indictment of Rep. LaMonica McIver in New Jersey to the charges against New York Attorney General Letitia James, former FBI Director James Comey, and dozens of others who have challenged the Trump administration. Federal prosecutors are being weaponized to punish political opponents and silence dissent.

The politicization of our justice system crosses a fundamental line that should alarm anyone who cares about democracy and the rule of law. This is *not* what democracy looks like, and we cannot accept it as normal.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to protest, and the people of Illinois have every reason to do so. For months, masked ICE agents have terrorized the city of Chicago and surrounding communities.

Federal agents have grabbed residents off the streets without warrant or explanation, including U.S. citizens. They fatally shot an unarmed civilian during a traffic stop. They have caused multiple high-speed collisions in residential neighborhoods. They have pepper-sprayed innocent bystanders and peaceful protesters across Cook County and outside the Broadview ICE facility, including faith leaders and candidates for office.

Just this week, a federal judge cited U.S. Customs and Border Protection for tear-gassing trick-or-treaters and demanded CBP Commander Gregory Bovino appear in court after federal agents repeatedly violated orders limiting use of force.

Masked ICE agents have transformed everyday life for thousands of our constituents. Parents won't send their kids to school, workers are choosing to stay home, and families are skipping doctors' appointments for fear of being picked up off the street. Nothing about this makes our communities safer.

These charges are meant to scare all of us into staying quiet because the Trump administration knows that they cannot justify their violent attacks on our communities.

We refuse to be silent.

We stand with Kat Abughazaleh, Andre Martin, Michael Rabbitt, Cat Sharp, Brian Straw, and Joselyn Walsh, and we will continue standing with every resident who speaks out against what this administration is doing to our communities.

Sincerely,

JB Pritzker

Illinois Governor

Robin Kelly

U.S. Representative, 2nd District

Jesús “Chuy” García

U.S. Representative, 4th District

Sean Casten

U.S. Representative, 6th District

Jan Schakowsky

U.S. Representative, 9th District

Brandon Johnson

Mayor of Chicago

Anna Valencia

City Clerk of Chicago

Melissa Conyears Ervin

City Treasurer of Chicago

Sara Feigenholtz

State Senator, 6th District

Laura Fine

State Senator, 9th District

Celina Villanueva

State Senator, 12th District

Graciela Guzman

State Senator, 20th District

Mark Walker

State Senator, 27th District

Mary Edly-Allen

State Senator, 31st District

Juliana Stratton

Illinois Lieutenant Governor

Delia Ramirez

U.S. Representative, 3rd District

Mike Quigley

U.S. Representative, 5th District

Raja Krishnamoorthi

U.S. Representative, 8th District

Emanuel “Chris” Welch

Speaker of the Illinois House

Toni Preckwinkle

Cook County Board President

Fritz Kaegi

Cook County Assessor

Lakesia Collins

State Senator, 5th District

Mike Simmons

State Senator, 7th District

Robert Martwick

State Senator, 10th District

Robert Peters

State Senator, 13th District

Karina Villa

State Senator, 25th District

Adriane Johnson

State Senator, 30th District

Rachel Ventura

State Senator, 43rd District

Aaron Ortiz

State Representative, 1st District

Kelly Cassidy

State Representative, 14th District

Lindsey LaPointe

State Representative, 19th District

Theresa Mah

State Representative, 24th District

Lisa Davis

State Representative, 32nd District

Jaime Andrade Jr.

State Representative, 40th District

Nicolle Grasse

State Representative, 53rd District

Bob Morgan

State Representative, 58th District

Maurice West II

State Representative, 67th District

Stephanie Kifowit, USMC Veteran

State Representative, 84th District

Daniel LaSpata

Alderman, 1st Ward

Desmon Yancy

Alderman, 5th Ward

Julia Ramirez

Alderman, 12th Ward

Jeanette Taylor

Alderman, 20th Ward

Byron Sigcho Lopez

Alderman, 25th Ward

Walter Redmond Burnett

Alderman, 27th Ward

Hoan Huynh

State Representative, 13th District

Kevin Olickal

State Representative, 16th District

Abdelnasser Rashid

State Representative, 21st District

Justin Slaughter

State Representative, 27th District

Will Guzzardi

State Representative, 39th District

Barbara Hernandez

State Representative, 50th District

Mary Beth Canty

State Representative, 54th District

Laura Faver Dias

State Representative, 62nd District

Norma Hernandez

State Representative, 77th District

Sharone Mitchell

Cook County Public Defender

Lamont Robinson

Alderman, 4th Ward

William Hall

Alderman, 6th Ward

Jeylu Gutierrez

Alderman, 14th Ward

Michael D. Rodriguez

Alderman, 22nd Ward

Jessie Fuentes

Alderman, 26th Ward

Jason Ervin

Alderman, 28th Ward

Ruth Cruz
Aldersperson, 30th Ward

Scott Waguespack
Aldersperson, 32nd Ward

Anthony Quezada
Aldersperson, 35th Ward

Andre Vasquez
Aldersperson, 40th Ward

Timmy Knudsen
Aldersperson, 43rd Ward

Angela Clay
Aldersperson, 46th Ward

Maria Hadden
Aldersperson, 49th Ward

Tara Stamps
Cook County Commissioner, 1st District

Kisha McCaskill
Cook County Commissioner, 5th District

Alma Anaya
Cook County Commissioner, 7th District

Maggie Trevor
Cook County Commissioner, 9th District

Scott Britton
Cook County Commissioner, 14th District

Frank Aguilar
Cook County Commissioner, 16th District

Precious Brady-Davis
MWRD Commissioner

Maggie O'Keefe
Committeeperson, 40th Ward

Felix Cardona Jr.
Aldersperson, 31st Ward

Rossana Rodriguez
Aldersperson, 33rd Ward

Gil Villegas
Aldersperson, 36th Ward

Brendan Reilly
Aldersperson, 42nd Ward

Bennett Lawson
Aldersperson, 44th Ward

Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth
Aldersperson, 48th Ward

Debra Silverstein
Aldersperson, 50th Ward

Bill Lowry
Cook County Commissioner, 3rd District

Donna Miller
Cook County Commissioner, 6th District

Jessica Vasquez
Cook County Commissioner, 8th District

Bridget Degnen
Cook County Commissioner, 12th District

Kevin Morrison
Cook County Commissioner, 15th District

Samantha Steele
*Cook County Board of Review
Commissioner, 2nd District*

Sharon Waller
MWRD Commissioner

Lucy Moog
Committeeman, 43rd Ward

Sean Tenner

Committeeman, 46th Ward

Ted Mason

*Elk Grove Township Democratic
Committeeperson*

Daniel Biss

Mayor of Evanston

Carlos Rivas

Chicago School Board Member, 3rd District

Jessica Biggs

Chicago School Board Member, 6th District

Anusha Thotakura

Chicago School Board Member, 6th District

Jamie Brown

CCPSA District Council Member, 1st District

Dion Terrell McGill

CCPSA District Council Member, 7th District

Elianne Bahena

CCPSA District Council Member, 10th District

Alees Edwards

CCPSA District Council Member, 11th District

Ashley Vargas

CCPSA District Council Member, 14th District

Anthony Michael Tamez

CCPSA District Council Member, 17th District

Jennifer Schaffer

CCPSA District Council Member, 19th District

Anna Rubin

CCPSA District Council Member, 20th District

Deirdre O'Connor

CCPSA District Council Member, 20th District

Paul Rosenfeld

Committeeman, 47th Ward

Maria Galo

*Palatine Township Democratic
Committeeperson*

Jennifer Custer

Chicago School Board Member, 1st District

Michilla Blaise

Chicago School Board Member, 5th District

Yesenia Lopez

Chicago School Board Member, 7th District

Che 'Rhymefest' Smith

Chicago School Board Member, 10th District

Alexander Perez

CCPSA District Council Member, 2nd District

Erin Vogel

CCPSA District Council Member, 9th District

Rosemarie Dominguez

CCPSA District Council Member, 10th District

Leonardo Quintero

CCPSA District Council Member, 12th District

David Orlikoff

CCPSA District Council Member, 14th District

Elizabeth Rochford

CCPSA District Council Member, 17th District

Sam Schoenburg

CCPSA District Council Member, 19th District

Darrell Dacres

CCPSA District Council Member, 20th District

Marilyn Pagan-Banks

CCPSA District Council Member, 24th District

Keo Jean-Joseph

CCPSA District Council Member, 24th District

Angelica Green

CCPSA District Council Member, 25th District

Gina Roberts

Lake County Board Member, 4th District

Jessica Vealitzek

*Lake County Forest Preserve President &
Lake County Board Member, 10th District*

Jennifer Clark

Lake County Board Member, 15th District

Bill Manganaro

Trustee, Village of Arlington Heights

Yasmeen Bankole

Trustee, Hanover Park

Vincent Pace

Trustee, Northfield Township

Veronica Arreola

CCPSA District Council Member, 24th District

Holly Kim

Lake County Treasurer

Carissa Casbon

Lake County Board Member, 7th District

Paul Frank

Lake County Board Member, 11th District

Michele Smith

Former Alderperson, 43rd Ward

Carina H. Santa Maria

Trustee, Village of Arlington Heights

Kevin Michael

*Member, Arlington Heights School District 25
Board of Education*