Hanscom Field Advisory Commission

October 22, 2025

James Covington, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
james.covington@ice.dhs.gov,Boston.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

Dear Mr. Covington:

The Hanscom Field Advisory Commission (HFAC) was created to facilitate communication about issues of interest to the public and the airport management. Legislation establishing HFAC in 1980 states in Section 2 that, "The Hanscom Field Advisory Commission shall have the following duties together with all duties incidental thereto or necessary for the performance thereof: 1) to act as an advisory commission for review and reaction with regard to decisions relating to Hanscom Field and the Hanscom Area, including but not limited to land use, noise abatement and transportation needs as outlined in the Hanscom Field Master Plan."

Among our regular duties and tasks is to review and understand the categories of flights, such as military, training, and private jets. The recent ICE flights represent a new category that we have not seen at Hanscom before, and the public is asking many questions about this new usage of the airport.

At our regularly scheduled meetings of July 15, 2025, September 16, 2025, and September 23, 2025, the HFAC discussed the utilization of Hanscom Field for Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Our understanding is that ICE flights have departed and landed at Hanscom Field for several months in 2025, were briefly halted, and then resumed in early September, 2025.

HFAC has several issues with utilization of Hanscom Field for ICE activity. We invite you to discuss these concerns with us at our next regularly scheduled (Zoom) meeting on Tuesday, November 18 or at any earlier time that is convenient to you, subject to our open meeting law posting requirements.

1. Flight details: In order for the HFAC to properly carry out our charge, we need an understanding of how the airport is being used for detainee flights. In particular, we have been asked about dates, times, and type of aircraft, for ICE activity on Hanscom Field. This is information you should provide to HFAC. We believe the Fixed Based Operators (such as Signature Aviation) are already receiving this information from ICE, and we call upon ICE to send us this flight information as well.

2. Public concern: There has been an unprecedented level of concern from our constituents about the ICE practice of using Hanscom Field to transport detainees. Local concerns originate with the use of the airport for deportation flights but also extend to ICE operations more generally. Despite claims that ICE is focusing only on violent criminals, we continually hear examples of people who have no criminal records, who are children, or are long-time tax-paying members of the community doing valued jobs. As such, ICE's contribution to community safety is being questioned.

3. Finally, there are fundamental questions about the legality of your actions. Many courts have ruled against ICE, such as Abrego Garcia v. Noem, Khalil v. Joyce, A.M. v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Barco Mercado v. Noem and others:

   <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html>
   <https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/judge-dismisses-sweeping-doj-lawsuit-against-maryland-judges/>.

   At the Hanscom Field Advisory Commission, we need your assurance that all use of the airport is in accordance with the law.

We are all public servants utilizing public tax dollars. It is essential for ICE representatives to meet with the public and explain your use of Hanscom Field, the detailed flight information, and your compliance with the law.

Please confirm your attendance at the HFAC zoom meeting of November 18 at 7 PM.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Coppe, Chair

Hanscom Field Advisory Commission

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