

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



515 W. Moreland Blvd.
Box 1488
Waukesha, WI 53187

Waukesha County Jail
Box 0217
Waukesha, WI 53187

Waukesha County
Huber
1400 Northview Road
Waukesha, WI 53188

ERIC SEVERSON, *Sheriff*

November 14, 2017

UPDATE

On today's date, the Program Advisory Board at the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Headquarters, recommended approval for Waukesha County in obtaining 287(g) authority relative to the jail model. Final approval is currently pending with the director of ICE and is expected to take up to 4 weeks.

Eric Severson
Waukesha County Sheriff

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October 26, 2017

SHERIFF'S STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP WITH ICE

As the Sheriff of Waukesha County, I have a responsibility to enforce the law and protect our citizens. I also have a duty to assist other law enforcement agencies in their enforcement efforts; this includes our federal counterparts in the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Several years ago, a nation-wide effort began challenging the processes used by ICE and Sheriffs regarding the detention of illegal aliens. This effort has taken the form of civil rights lawsuits challenging the process used by ICE called "detainers". Detainers are requests by ICE asking the local sheriff to help them transfer illegal aliens into their custody from county jails. Such lawsuits in several jurisdictions have been successful. I have determined, after consultation with legal counsel, that the best way to honor my responsibility to cooperate with ICE and protect the public, while at the same time honoring my oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, is through participation in the 287(g) program.

I have applied for, but have not yet been accepted into this program. Our requested model is narrowly focused on jail custody of illegal aliens. This program provides explicit and unambiguous federal authority to do our job.

My request does not create a local immigration force within the community seeking to deport non-criminals. The model does not contemplate engaging in sweeps or round-ups looking for non-criminal illegal aliens. Again, our participation request is specifically for a jail model that allows us to work more effectively with ICE to honor all detainers with lawful federal authority.

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

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The operational impact of 287(g) is minimal. We will enhance our operation in the following ways:

- A select few individuals, primarily assigned to jail duties will receive training in immigration law and federal enforcement practices. This will permit us to more effectively work with ICE and insure that we are lawfully supporting our federal partners. The costs of this training will be paid for by the federal government. Impact on existing jail resources will be minimal.
 - By having greater training and knowledge of federal immigration law, we will be in a better position to identify opportunities to assist people to become compliant with federal immigration law.
 - ICE plans to enhance computer equipment and database access to improve our ability to communicate and exchange law enforcement data between our office and ICE.
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- ICE will have improved flexibility in their ability to pick up detainees from our jail and we can better assist them in conducting their investigations.
 - Most importantly, we will have clear legal authority to honor all ICE detainees. Deportation priorities and decisions will always remain with the federal government where they belong.

Earlier this year I testified before a Senate committee. My statements regarding our interest in 287(g) were made with a task force model in mind (non-criminal sweeps and round-ups). My answer did not contemplate the jail model for which we now apply, since I was at the time of my testimony, unaware of the existence or prospects of the jail model. I always reserve the right to reconsider my position on issues when presented with new information.

Our application represents my best judgement to strengthen our strategy to protect and serve the community. Our expanded partnership with ICE will help us do that.

Eric Severson
Waukesha County Sheriff

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