

To: The Richland County Board of Commissioners

From: Andrea Mauk, Richland County Citizen

Date: 01/22/2026

Formal Inquiry Regarding County Budget Allocation for ICE Cooperation, Sheriff's Department Protocols, and Protection of Citizen Rights

Honorable Commissioners,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen and taxpayer of Richland County, exercising my right to seek transparency and clarity from my local government. I bring forward questions that pertain to public safety, fiscal responsibility, the constitutional rights of citizens, and the proper role of local government in federal matters.

As the elected stewards of our county's budget and policies, you oversee the funding and broad oversight of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Because of this I am asking for definitive answers:

1. **Pathway for Constituent Clarity:** In seeking answers on federal authority, I proactively contacted the office of our U.S. Representative, Jim Jordan. I was directed, via phone call, to seek information from the local Sheriff's Department regarding federal DHS/ICE protocols. Subsequently, I submitted formal casework to Congressman Jordan's office seeking guidance on the relevant federal statutes governing such operations. To date, I have received no substantive response. This leaves me, a constituent, turning to you—my local officials—for direction and transparency that the federal level has not provided.

2. **Budgetary Transparency & Fiscal Responsibility:** In the spirit of accountable governance for every tax dollar spent, I'm asking this office to provide a detailed account of any and all funds allocated from the Richland County budget to support, facilitate, or cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. This includes, but is not limited to, funds for personnel overtime, equipment, training, or dedicated facility space. Our citizens deserve to know exactly how their money is being used in this specific area of law enforcement and how it helps the community.

3. Sheriff's Department Protocols & 2nd Amendment Considerations: Clarity on local law enforcement protocol is essential for public trust. What are the Sheriff Department's official policies and procedures when responding to 911 calls related to an ongoing ICE detainment or operation within our county? Furthermore, in such a volatile situation where armed federal agents are operating, what specific protocols are in place to safeguard the constitutional rights of citizens on the scene, particularly those who may be legally armed under the 2nd Amendment and Ohio's open carry laws? How does the department ensure the de-escalation of potential conflicts and prevent the tragic outcomes we have witnessed elsewhere?

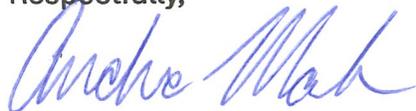
4. Protection of U.S. Citizens & Lessons from Minnesota: What steps has Richland County taken, through policy or interagency agreement, to verify the immigration status of individuals detained by ICE within our jurisdiction, and to prevent the erroneous detainment of United States citizens? Specifically, what measures are in place to avoid a scenario akin to the siege in Minnesota, which resulted in the death of an American and the arrest of multiple U.S. citizens? The protection of American citizens from federal overreach is a paramount duty and essential to keeping government local.

I believe these questions are non-partisan in their core: they are about the use of tax dollars, the clear communication of law enforcement procedures, the protection of constitutional rights, and the safety of all Richland County residents. As conservative leaders, you understand the importance of limited government, individual liberty, and local sovereignty. I trust you also share the grave concern of citizens being caught in a potentially dangerous crossfire of jurisdictional ambiguity.

I respectfully request that these inquiries be addressed publicly and that detailed written responses be entered into the public record. The people of Richland County deserve unambiguous answers on these critical issues.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community. I look forward to your responses and clarification.

Respectfully,



Andrea Mauk

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