

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf
Department of Homeland Security
3808 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

July 23, 2020

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf,

We write to you today following the Trump Administration's announcement to expand "Operation Legend" by deploying hundreds of federal agents, including DHS agents, to the City of Chicago in an effort to combat crime and violence.¹ While we are encouraged by your public announcement that you will "[work] together across the federal government and with our state and local law enforcement partners,"² we understand that executing on this commitment would significantly differ from the Department's recent actions in Portland, Oregon, where unmarked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers purportedly acting on behalf of FPS have threatened and terrorized citizens, including apprehending residents in unmarked vehicles without citations, paperwork, or an explanation for their actions.³⁴ As Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation with oversight authority and a vested interest in public health and safety in the City of Chicago, we write today requesting your written commitment to not utilize these immoral and illegal tactics in the City of Chicago through Operation Legend.

First, it is imperative that you consult with, and follow directions from, Governor J.B. Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot if federal law enforcement is deployed to non-federal property or has any involvement in community policing activity in and around the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.

¹ *The White House*. "Remarks by President Trump on Operation LeGend: Combatting Violent Crime in American Cities." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-operation-legend-combatting-violent-crime-american-cities/> (July 22, 2020)

² *Ibid.*

³ Levinson, Jonathan, Wilson, Conrad, Doubek, James, and Nuyen, Suzanne. "Federal Officers Use Unmarked Vehicles To Grab People In Portland, DHS Confirms." *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/17/892277592/federal-officers-use-unmarked-vehicles-to-grab-protesters-in-portland> (July 17, 2020); Kanno-Youngs, Zolan. "Unidentified Federal Police Prompt Fears Amid Protests in Washington." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/us/politics/unidentified-police-protests.html> (June 4, 2020).

⁴ Kanno-Youngs, Zolan. "Unidentified Federal Police Prompt Fears Amid Protests in Washington." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/us/politics/unidentified-police-protests.html> (June 4, 2020)

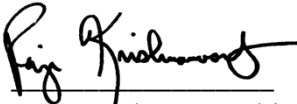
Second, should additional federal forces ever be needed or requested by the City of Chicago or State of Illinois, we expect and request complete collaboration between federal agencies and state and local officials. In the event that federal agents are deployed to the City of Chicago, we request the following information about actions your DHS officials plan to take, and the legal justifications provided for said actions:

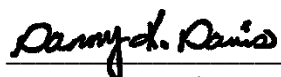
1. Will you commit to limiting policing only to actions that have been agreed to by the Mayor or Governor?
2. Will every officer under your direction wear uniforms that provide agency identification and badge numbers?
3. Will every vehicle used by federal officials be marked with appropriate insignia and an identifiable license plate?


We remain adamant in our commitment to the safety and protection of all persons in the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, as well as the federal enclaves contained therein. But as Mayor Lightfoot astutely noted on July 22nd, 2020, “If those [federal] agents are here to actually work in partnership on support of gun violence and violent cases, plugging into existing infrastructure of federal agents, not trying to play police in our streets, then that’s something different, and that may add value, *but the proof is going to be in the pudding.*”⁵ We agree that “the proof will be in the pudding,” and for this reason we plan to conduct rigorous oversight over Operation Legend in the coming days and weeks to protect the safety of our constituents and our local community.

We request that you, Acting Secretary Wolf, do not infringe on any civil rights or liberties of our constituents and respond to this inquiry no later than July 27th, 2020.

Sincerely,


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

⁵ CBS 2 Chicago Staff. “President Trump Announces Deployment Of Federal Agents In Chicago As Part Of ‘Operation Legend.’” *CBS Chicago*. <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/07/22/president-trump-announces-deployment-of-federal-agents-in-chicago-as-part-of-operation-legend/> (July 22, 2020)