November 13, 2026

To the Owners and Operators of Parking Garages and Lots in Austin, Texas:

Thank you for the essential service you provide to keep our city running. We are writing to ask for your help ensuring our city remains safe for all of its residents. We ask that you refuse to rent, lease, loan, or otherwise allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to use your property as a staging area for its enforcement operations.

Austin has experienced a surge in ICE activity in recent months. This has meant families getting arrested in front of churches and food pantries, a 5-year-old being deported, and ICE shooting Mr. Wilber Garcés Pérez in the back. It has increased terror in our community, resulting in high rates of absenteeism and withdrawal from school.[1]

We know that ICE and its contracted personnel have used privately owned lots in Austin as a staging area for the transportation of immigrants to deportation centers in at least two instances.[2] We have seen in cities like New York how using lots for staging can directly lead to horrific violence.[3] At least one property owner in Austin has stated that they did not authorize ICE to use their private property[4] and have committed to taking steps to ensure ICE does not use their property again. We are grateful for this. We ask that other property owners also commit to prohibiting ICE from using their lots as a staging ground for operations and make this prohibition clear to ICE.

If you have any questions, you can contact Congressman Casar's office at Arpi.Karapetyan@mail.house.gov.

---

[1] "Texas schools reported losing 14,200 immigrant kids last year. The true number is likely higher," *The Texas Tribune*, September 30, 2026, https://www.texastribune.org/2026/09/30/immigrant-students-enrollment-texas-schools/

[2] "'ICE is NOT slowing down': DHS responds to criticism over this week's Austin operations," *KXAN*, October 21, 2026, https://www.kxan.com/investigations/ice-didnt-have-permission-to-stage-at-austin-site-property-owner-says/

[3] "Mayor Mamdani leads more than 100 elected officials in calling on parking garage owners and operators to keep ICE off their property," *Office of the Mayor, City of New York*, October 16, 2026, https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2026/10/mayor-mamdani-leads-more-than-100-elected-officials-in-calling-o

[4] "'ICE is NOT slowing down': DHS responds to criticism over this week's Austin operations," *KXAN*, October 21, 2026, https://www.kxan.com/investigations/ice-didnt-have-permission-to-stage-at-austin-site-property-owner-says/

Sincerely,

Congressman Greg Casar
Congressman Lloyd Doggett

Mayor Kirk Watson
District 2 Council Member Vanessa Fuentes
District 3 Council Member Jose Velasquez
District 4 Council Member Jose “Chito” Vela
District 5 Council Member Ryan Alter
District 6 Council Member Krista Laine
District 7 Council Member Mike Siegel
District 8 Council Member Paige Ellis
District 9 Council Member Zohaib “Zo” Qadri

Travis County Judge Andy Brown
Commissioner George Morales
Commissioner Brigid Shea
Commissioner Ann Howard

Texas State Representative Lulu Flores