

Valerie De La Rosa, *Chair*
Eugene Yoo, *First Vice Chair*
Donna Raftery, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Emma Smith, *Secretary*
Mark Diller, *District Manager*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.manhattancb2.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@manhattancb2.org

Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

November 3, 2025

Todd M. Lyons,
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St.
Washington, DC 20536

Jennifer Fenton,
Associate Director,
Office of Professional Responsibility
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St.
Washington, DC 20536

Marcos Charles,
Acting Executive Associate Director
Enforcement and Removal Operations
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St.
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Directors Lyons, Charles and Denton:

At its Full Board meeting on October 23, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Resolution opposing use of masks by ICE agents apprehending individuals at the federal courthouse at 201 Varick Street.

WHEREAS

1. **Local Impact:** The federal immigration courthouse at 201 Varick Street lies within the boundaries of Community District 2, Manhattan [5]. Together with nearby facilities at 26 Federal Plaza and 290 Broadway [6,7], located in Community District 1, it has been at the center of visible and questionable immigration enforcement operations [8,9], including the detention and/or deportation of NYC public school students [10-12]; and

2. **Escalation of Enforcement:** ICE arrested at least 2,365 immigrants in the NYC area between January and June 2025, a 200% increase from the five months before the start of the Trump presidency [1,2]. Officers making these arrests often wear masks, cover identification tags, and otherwise obscure their identity, claiming that these steps are necessary to protect them from “doxing”; and
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** The use of masked and unmarked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents is intimidating and undermines basic transparency, accountability, and the rule of law [3,4]; and
4. **Local Responsibility:** CB2 affirms its responsibility to comment on how law enforcement - even by federal officers - operates within our district. This resolution reflects our community’s values, including expectations for safety and accountability [13,14]; and
5. **Public Safety Risks:** The "uniform" of unmarked agents wearing masks has facilitated criminal acts around the country by bad actors posing as ICE agents, including robberies and kidnappings. Such impersonations erode public trust and endanger immigrant and non-immigrant residents alike [15-19]; and
6. **Constitutional Violations:** Federal courts have repeatedly found ICE and DHS to engage in unconstitutional or unlawful practices, including racial profiling, Fourth Amendment violations, and immigration court policy violations [20-26]. With respect to courthouse arrests, these practices create a “trap” for immigrants—forcing them to choose between asserting their legal rights or risking detention [23,24]. This erodes due process and other constitutional protections, undermining trust in the U.S. justice system on which all communities rely.
7. **Current Actions:** Initiatives such as the MELT Act, and advocacy from organizations such as the NYCLU, ACLU, Make the Road NY, and others, aim to bar the practice of courthouse arrests by officers whose identities have been obscured [3,4, 13,14, 24,25, 36-39]; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 2, MANHATTAN

1. Opposes the use of masks in law enforcement and finds concerns about “doxing” to be secondary to the values of transparency and accountability as essential requirements for public trust in law enforcement; and
2. Supports efforts by elected officials and advocacy organizations, including the MELT Act [provide reference] to end courthouse arrests and to bar practices that mask officers’ identities, and affirms that courthouse arrests undermine public confidence in the justice system.

Vote: Unanimous, 33 Board Members in favor.

References

1. Trump's Immigrant Crackdown in New York: More Arrests, Longer Detention – [NY Times](#) (Aug 4, 2025)
2. NYC Is the Nation's Capital of Immigration Courthouse Arrests, New Data Analysis Shows - [The City](#) (August 11, 2025)
3. Senator Fahy Introduces MELT Act to Prohibit Masking by ICE Agents – [NY Senate](#) (July 15, 2025)
4. NYC lawmakers take on masked ICE agents with MELT Act – [CBS New York](#) (July 9, 2025)
5. Varick Street Immigration Court – [U.S. DOJ](#)
6. Federal Plaza Immigration Court – [U.S. DOJ](#)
7. Broadway Immigration Court – [U.S. DOJ](#)
8. What's Inside a 10th Floor ICE Office? New York Democrats Want to Know – [NY Times](#) (June 20, 2025)
9. 'They're Killing Us': Immigrants Complain of Inhumane Conditions – [Gothamist](#) (July 9, 2025)
10. Venezuelan public school student in NY detained at immigration court [Gothamist](#) (May 27, 2025)
11. ICE detains another NYC public school student: 'We've been fearing this all summer' [Gothamist](#) (August 14, 2025)
12. Deportation of 7-year-old NYC student draws criticism from city and state officials - [Gothamist](#) (Aug 19, 2025)
13. Attorney General James Leads Coalition Urging Congress to Protect Americans from Masked ICE Agents - [Office of the New York State Attorney General](#) (July 15, 2025)
14. NY bill would ban ICE and other officers from wearing masks. Here's what to know. - [Gothamist](#) (July 21, 2025)
15. Deputies: Woman Impersonates ICE Agent – [YouTube](#) (April 23, 2025)
16. Philadelphia Police Searching for ICE Impersonator – [YouTube](#) (June 11, 2025)
17. Suspect arrested after allegedly posing as ICE agent during robbery in west Houston, police say – [ABC13](#) (June 25, 2025)
18. Houston Store Owner Shoots Robbery Suspect Who Posed as Police – [ABC13](#) (June 26, 2025)
19. ICE Impersonations Proliferate Amid the Agency's Undercover Tactics – [The American Prospect](#) (June 24, 2025)
20. Inside a Courthouse, Chaos and Tears as Trump Accelerates Deportations - [NY Times](#) (June 12, 2025)
21. BREAKING: Court Prohibits Federal Government from Racial Profiling, Denying Access to Counsel in Immigration Raids - [Public Counsel](#) (July 11, 2025)
22. How the Supreme Court's Latest Decision Clears the Way for Racial Profiling During Immigration Raids - [American Immigration Council](#) (September 9, 2025)
23. Arrests Nearly Halt at Immigration Court. One Reason: Fewer People Are Showing Up - [The City](#) (August 15, 2025)
24. NYC Corporation Counsel Amicus Brief (*opposing the campaign of immigration courthouse arrests*) – [New York City Law Department](#) (August 18, 2025)
25. How Trump and ICE are Weaponizing Courthouses - [NYCLU](#) (August 18, 2025)
26. Judge greenlights ICE's courthouse arrests in New York City - [Courthouse News](#) (September 12, 2025)

27. Federal judge in NYC rules ICE can keep detaining people at immigration court — for now - [Gothamist](#) (September 13, 2025)
28. New Video Shows ICE Lockup at 26 Federal Plaza – [NYIC Instagram](#) (July 22, 2025)
29. ‘Like Dogs in Here’ — Videos Expose ICE Lockup – [The City](#) (July 22, 2025)
30. Letter to Commissioner Oddo and Commissioner Tucker Re: Reports of Unsafe Conditions and Potential Building Violations - [NYC Comptroller](#) (July 22, 2025)
31. Groups Sue Trump Administration Over Lack of Access to Counsel and Inhumane Conditions – [NYCLU](#) (Aug 9, 2025)
32. Judge Orders ICE to Improve Conditions After NYC Detainee Complaints – [CNN](#) (Aug 13, 2025)
33. ‘Inhumane’: Judge Orders ICE to Improve Conditions Immediately – [MSNBC](#) (Aug 14, 2025)
34. Attorney General James Takes Action to Stop Inhumane Conditions – [NY AG](#) (Aug 19, 2025)
35. ICE arrests ramp up in NYC immigration court as AG Letitia James fights to stop indefinite detentions - [AMNY](#) (September 3, 2025)
36. Melt Act Press Conference - [YouTube](#) (July 9, 2025)
37. MELT Act Bill - [S08462](#) / [A08908](#) – NY State Legislature (2025)
38. NY State Sen. Pat Fahy joins multistate coalition calling for legislation to prohibit the masking of ICE agents - [WAMC](#) (August 5, 2025)
39. “California bans ICE agents from wearing masks” – [AP News](#) (Sept 2024)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susanna Aaron, Chair
Human Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Grace Lee NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member