



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 26-05

Establishing a Council to Document the Impacts of Operation Metro Surge and Operation PARRIS on Minnesotans

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following executive order:

In December 2025, the federal government began Operation Metro Surge – an immigration enforcement action described by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the largest the agency had ever attempted. Subsequently, the federal government launched Operation PARRIS in January 2026 to further focus on refugee communities in Minnesota. When these operations began to scale down in February 2026, the Department of Homeland Security had left Renee Good and Alex Pretti dead and communities across Minnesota traumatized, living in fear, separated from their families, and pushed to the brink of financial ruin.

Over a period of more than 10 weeks, masked and armed immigration agents detained children, indiscriminately used chemical agents, violated the civil rights of peaceful protestors, detained American Indians, and conducted unwarranted stops and arrests of our neighbors simply because of the color of their skin. At the Bishop Henry Whipple Building at Fort Snelling agents have detained individuals in squalid conditions and prevented access to counsel.

Despite the deployment of over 3,000 federal agents to Minnesota, our communities demonstrated strength, unity, grace, and an unrelenting desire to support each other. Leaders organized response efforts, advocated for their communities, and defended the values that make us Minnesotan. Neighbors banded together to protect one another, deliver groceries, and help pay bills. Parents and community members patrolled their neighborhoods to keep them safe. Educators and caregivers organized carpools, walked children to and from school, and packed meals for families. Restaurants operated at a loss to feed people in need. Through it all, Minnesotans have persevered and made their voices heard, loudly and peacefully.

While I am inspired by our resiliency and perseverance, we cannot turn a blind eye to what has happened here. The only way we move forward is with accountability. Minnesotans demand and deserve a public record that reflects the violent, cruel, inhumane, and deeply disturbing actions of federal immigration agents, and the dignity of our response. This record can help serve as a step towards our state's long-term recovery.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. The Governor's Council on Recording the Truth of Operation Metro Surge and Operation PARRIS ("the Council") is established.
2. The Council, of no more than 15 members, will include the following representation:
 - a. A chair, with experience in leadership, law, civil rights, or other relevant expertise, to be appointed by the Governor;
 - b. A vice-chair, who is a representative of the Advocates for Human Rights ("AHR") to be appointed by that organization;
 - c. A representative from the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, to be appointed by that organization;
 - d. Up to 12 additional members, to be appointed by the Governor, with experience and perspective in the following areas:
 - i. Immigration;
 - ii. Civil and human rights;
 - iii. Education;
 - iv. Law enforcement;
 - v. Faith and religion;
 - vi. Business;
 - vii. Health, including mental health and trauma; or
 - viii. Community impact; and
 - e. A designee from each of the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights will serve as ex-officio, non-voting members.
3. By October 31, 2026, the Council will create a report of the preliminary findings and recommendations to prevent recurrence of the conduct of federal agents, the harms and abuses endured by Minnesota residents, businesses, schools, childcare, and local communities, and the ways that Minnesotans united and persevered during Operation Metro Surge and Operation PARRIS. By December 1, 2026, the Council will create a final report to be delivered to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the Minnesota legislature, and Minnesota's congressional delegation.
4. The state of Minnesota has entered into an agreement with the Advocates for Human Rights, an organization of national experts in human rights. AHR will build a robust process to collect stories from community and then work with the Council to prepare for public presentations, and solicit information through public forums, personal testimony, publicly available video, and any other means.
5. By June 1, 2026, the Council will confer with AHR to select the topics for story collection and presentation. Topics may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Human and civil rights violations;
 - b. Impact on immigrants;
 - c. Use of chemical munitions;
 - d. Actions taken against US citizens;
 - e. Peaceful protests;

- f. Digital documentation of federal action;
 - g. Economic harms;
 - h. Impacts on children; and
 - i. Activism to support schools, childcare, and local businesses.
6. The Council will host a minimum of four public meetings to hear presentations on the selected topics. The Council will direct AHR to collect stories, data, testimony, and other relevant information on the selected topics. The Council will determine the venue, structure, and timing of each of these public meetings. AHR will prepare a summary of each of these meetings, along with any other relevant data, for potential inclusion in a final report.
 7. State agencies will present data and information to the Council, at the Council's request.
 8. The Council does not have a law enforcement role and will avoid any interference with ongoing investigations and prosecutions. In particular, the Council will not engage in reporting around the shootings of Renee Good, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, or Alex Pretti. Instead, the Council will refer potential violations of law to entities responsible for investigating and enforcing such violations.
 9. Minnesota Management and Budget will engage Management Analysis and Development as project consultants to provide staffing and administrative support for the Council. The Department of Administration will process travel reimbursements if requested for Council members, as appropriate.
 10. This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on March 25, 2026.



Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed March 25, 2026
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon