



Minnesota House of Representatives

January 19, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Keith Ellison
Attorney General of Minnesota
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55101

The Honorable Jacob Frey
Mayor, City of Minneapolis
350 South 5th Street, Room 331
Minneapolis, MN 55415

The Honorable Kaohly Her
Mayor, City of Saint Paul
390 City Hall and Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz, Attorney General Ellison, Mayor Frey, and Mayor Her:

We are writing to express our profound alarm regarding the escalating public safety crisis and the breakdown of the rule of law in the Twin Cities, because our state and local leaders refuse to cooperate with federal law enforcement.

The recent surge in federal arrests has taken individuals off our streets who should never have been there in the first place. These are not "low-level" offenders; they are the "worst of the worst" that your policies have protected. Notable arrests from just the last week include:

- * Brian Anjain and Hien Quoc Thai: Both apprehended for their roles in separate murder cases and extensive criminal histories.
- * Eddy Xol-Lares: A high-level offender convicted of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.
- * Mong Cheng: A known gang member with convictions for two counts of homicide and multiple assaults.
- * Benevenuto Walter Lopez Alonzo: A gang member convicted of possessing child sexual abuse material.

Despite the obvious threat these individuals pose, your administrations continue to ignore more than 1,360 ICE detainees for aliens currently in custody. By refusing to transfer these criminals in the controlled environment of a jail, you are forcing federal agents to conduct high-stakes arrests in our neighborhoods, which increases the risk to bystanders and officers alike.

While Minnesota leadership chooses defiance, states like Wisconsin, Michigan, Florida, Texas, and Georgia have embraced cooperation. By honoring detainees and participating in 287(g) agreements, these states have seen more efficient removals of violent threats and significantly less street-level chaos.

In contrast, your choice to obstruct has turned the Twin Cities into a "pressure cooker." The recent violence—including the tragic shooting on January 7 and subsequent clashes—is the direct result of the vacuum created when local and federal authorities do not coordinate. This chaos is costing taxpayers millions; the Minneapolis Police Department alone has already logged over 3,000 hours of overtime this month to manage the unrest sparked by your political grandstanding.

Our state's reputation as a safe place to live and do business is being dismantled. When the Attorney General files lawsuits to halt the removal of murderers and gang members, it sends a message that Minnesota prioritizes "sanctuary" politics over the lives of its own citizens. Our schools are going into lockdowns and our businesses are closing their doors not because of federal law, but because of the atmosphere of lawlessness you have permitted to fester.

It is within your power to end this chaos today. The solution is simple, and in your hands:

- * Publicly direct local law enforcement to assist federal partners in maintaining order and de-escalating confrontations with agitators.
- * Attorney General Ellison must immediately rescind the February 2025 and December 2025 opinions that prevent sheriffs and local agencies from honoring ICE detainees and entering into 287(g) agreements.
- * Tell DFL elected officials and activists to stop interfering with lawful federal enforcement actions. Your rhetoric is inciting the very "terror" you claim to oppose.

Agitators clearly feel emboldened to take increasingly disturbing and brazen action, culminating in the so-called protest this weekend where a church was disrupted mid-service. These actions are unacceptable and require an aggressive response and condemnation.

The people of Minnesota deserve a government that puts their safety first. We expect an immediate shift in policy to restore the partnership between local, state, and federal law enforcement.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Demuth
Speaker of the House, District 13A



Harry Niska
Majority Leader, District 31A