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September 22, 2026

Dear Mayor Becerra, Members of the Whittier City Council, and City Manager McNamara,

More than 350,000 arrests have been made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with a record breaking 50,925 people arrested this past August 2026. In other words it is not slowing down. Not all those arrested were criminals, or undocumented. In fact many were United States Citizens. In the 500 days between January 20, 2025 and June 4, 2026, [52 people died](#) in ICE custody. Minnesota residents, [Renee Good](#) and [Alex Pretti](#) were shot and killed by federal agents in January of this year. In Houston, [Lorenzo Salgado Araujo](#), a 52-year old laborer

was shot and killed during a vehicle stop on July 7, 2026. Reports of [inhumane treatment, abuse, and assault](#) are widespread and, in many cases, [uninvestigated](#). Girls as young as [13 years old](#) are pregnant in detention centers.

ICE has conducted a myriad of enforcement operations in the City of Whittier. Several were widely publicized: [June 9, 2025](#) - Whittier Public Library; June 9 - June 19, 2025 - Pacific Auto Spa; [June 10, 2026](#) - Whittier Public Library; and [July 6, 2026](#) - Whittier Public Library on Washington Avenue. ICE agents targeted the Pacific Auto Spa located in the City of Whittier four times in nine days in 2025. On [September 9, 2025](#) United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor cited the City of Whittier incidents in her dissent, writing that the government should not have the power to racially profile members of the community because of language and employment factors. [Vecinos Unidos Whittier](#) Rapid Response continues to communicate and patrol on a daily basis, respond to ICE sightings, and coordinate with rapid response groups in our neighboring cities.

There is no doubt that there is a vulnerable segment of our residents of the City of Whittier in need of assistance. So let's not forget why the City of Whittier made a commitment in the summer of 2025. The City of Whittier made a commitment – at the outcry and request of those who live here – to help our fellow citizens through targeted funding and support. This is why we find it disturbing that the funds to support the most vulnerable community have not been spent. The City of Whittier might have made a commitment, but did not follow through to make sure funding was spent in accordance with the intent stated in [RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#), section 3, **“to aid families experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.”** Nor did the City of Whittier have the organizations sign memorandums of understanding.

The undersigned organizations write to you today to demand accountability and transparency in how taxpayer dollars were and/or are being spent by the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT) and the Interfaith Food Center (IFC).

On August 12, 2025 the Whittier City Council voted 5-0, with abstentions on individual subsections, to pass [RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#). In this resolution, the Whittier City Council expressly took a stance to reaffirm the city’s policies that “prohibit engagement in immigration enforcement activities,” directs City staff to “make available ‘Know Your Rights’ informational materials” and “to support local community-based organizations and legal aid groups to assist residents with the preparation and filing of immigration-related paperwork and applications,” and appropriated additional funding to HOT and IFC explicitly **“to aid families experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.”**

The City’s records indicate that payments were made to IFC on August 1, 2025 via Check No. 348628 for \$15,000 and on September 5, 2025 via Check No. 349478 for \$50,000. The total

amount of funds paid to IFC by the City of Whittier in 2025 totaled \$65,000 “to aid families experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.” On November 18, 2025 IFC submitted a [written report](#) to the City of Whittier detailing the amount of funds spent and unspent, what the monies were spent on, and how many residents of Whittier were served. **The written report did not include how many residents of Whittier were served who experienced “hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.”**

The City’s records indicate that payments were made to HOT on August 1, 2025 via [Check No. 348625](#) for \$15,000 and on September 5, 2025 via [Check No. 349472](#) for \$50,000. The total amount of funds paid to HOT by the City of Whittier in 2025 totaled \$65,000 “to aid families experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.” **To our knowledge, no written report has been provided by HOT to the City of Whittier detailing spent and unspent funds, what the monies were spent on, or how many residents of Whittier “experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions” were served.**

During the Whittier City Council meeting of [August 25, 2026](#) City Council member Vicky Santana went on the record and requested a written report from HOT. The written report provided should include, “How the money has been spent and if it hasn't been spent how they intend to spend the money.” City Council member Aida Macedo on the record supported Vicky Santana’s request.

Question: As of today’s date, has the above request made by City Councilmembers Vicky Santana and Aida Macedo on [August 25th](#) been respectfully completed? If the answer is yes, has said report been shared with the public? If a written report has been provided by HOT to the City of Whittier **detailing spent and unspent funds, what the monies were spent on, or how many residents of Whittier “experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions” were served then please forward to us.**

During the Whittier City Council meeting of [August 25, 2026](#) City Council member Mary Ann Pacheco responded to City Council member Vicky Santana, “that information has been reported from HOT to the City Manager. This information could be made public.”

Question: In reference to City Councilmember Mary Ann Pacheco response - Where is said report describing funds spent and unspent? What date was the written report emailed to Whittier City Manager? Was said report shared with the public? If so, when and how? We respectfully request a copy of said report.

[RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#) - Section 8 states, “Direct Staff to provide a monthly update at a City Council meeting on the progress of implementation of items outlined in this resolution.”

Question: Did the staff provide monthly updates of progress of implementation of items outlined in resolution? Please provide transcripts of direct staff reports including the report on the \$50K that was to be allocated “to support local community-based organizations and legal aid groups to assist residents with the preparation and filing of immigration related paperwork and applications, including, but not limited to, financial resources.”

During the Whittier City Council meeting of [August 25, 2026](#) Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the City of Whittier discussed social service fund distribution.

Question: What is the City of Whittier’s written policy requiring executed agreements for all disbursements of public funds to private organizations, regardless of whether such disbursements are characterized as donations? Please describe in detail in writing what the policy and process is. Did the City of Whittier follow said policy and process when disbursing said funds to IFC and HOT that were to be used according to resolution [RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#) section 3, “**to aid families experiencing hardship due to immigration enforcement actions.**”

Question: If the City of Whittier findings from written reports provided by IFC and HOT were not spent in accordance with [RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#) what action will the City of Whittier take?

We request that our questions be answered fully in writing, requested documents be shared, and [RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38](#) goals be met. Bottom line: we request for accountability and transparency.

We look forward to a timely response in writing.

Respectfully Yours,

National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)
Reform Whittier
TransLatina Coalition
Vecinos Unidos Whittier
Whittier Latino Coalition
Whittier Pride

