
Fwd: Concern about unprofessional conduct by ICE officers in Millcreek, Utah

From Jeff Silvestrini <jsilvestrini@millcreekut.gov>

Date Mon 2/3/2025 4:01 PM

To Elyse Sullivan <esullivan@millcreekut.gov>

Jeff Silvestrini

Mayor, City of Millcreek

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Silvestrini <jsilvestrini@millcreekut.gov>

Date: January 28, 2025 at 3:13:00 PM MST

To: Jason.G.Knight@ice.dhs.gov

Cc: Jason Mazuran <JMazuran@updsl.org>, Troy.Walker@draperutah.gov

Subject: Concern about unprofessional conduct by ICE officers in Millcreek, Utah

Dear Mr. Knight:

As mayor of Millcreek, I support legitimate efforts of the officers of your agency to locate and deport violent criminals and felons in our country who are without documentation or status. However, I draw the line when such efforts violate the civil rights of American citizens, cause disruption of lawful commerce, or unnecessarily consume resources of my city. I am writing to you today to address the latter. From my investigation to date of an event in Millcreek on the afternoon of Sunday, January 26, near the Walmart at 4627 S. 900 East, I am concerned that several ICE officers apparently overstepped, demonstrated unprofessional and perhaps criminal conduct, and trampled the rights of an American citizen employed in my city. I request an inquiry into this incident, and, if warranted, consequences for your officers, to perhaps include criminal charges for providing a false report of information to my police officers in violation of Utah Code 76-8-506.

First, I do not know what protocols or policies govern the use of force by your officers. I do know that their conduct in detaining someone at gunpoint for a traffic violation would violate the policies of my police department. Their conduct appears to have been unwarranted and

excessive according to my officers on the scene. Second, it appears that the information your officers provided to my cops concerning an attempted assault or sideswiping of their vehicle (or even swerving toward your officers) was demonstrably false based upon available video evidence. It is telling that two of your three officers declined to sign witness statements and somewhat backed off of their story at the scene. The third officer who did sign the statement possibly committed a Class B misdemeanor in doing so, once again, based upon what the surveillance video shows.

This incident caused a social media explosion, and has consumed a significant amount of my time attempting to respond to direct inquiries from my residents and assure them that our city and its police force will uphold the civil rights of all Americans. I have also fielded inquiries from other elected officials who have contacted me about the incident and raised questions about the level of cooperation their police should deliver based upon the media reports. I do not appreciate any of this, as I have far better ways to use my time. However, if you expect local officials and our police departments to cooperate with your agency, you should ensure that your people communicate in advance with our departments (as is customary) respect the rights of our residents and stay in their lane regarding pursuits for traffic violations and other matters outside their jurisdiction.

Your officers' apparently unjustified actions risk chilling commerce at one of my city's larger sales tax outlets, damaging the taxpayers of Millcreek. ICE sapped resources from both my city and Murray when they summoned "expedited assistance" for an event which appears to have been nothing more than your officers having "thin skin" in the face of a citizen's exercise of his right to free speech. While such disrespect for law enforcement is regrettable, professional officers shrug off such bad behavior. Doing otherwise, unfortunately leads to more of the same. Your officers' conduct appears to reflect either poor training or the kind of unprofessionalism (dare I say thuggery) which gives all police officers a bad reputation.

Please advise what action you intend to take to address this incident and keep me apprised. I am interested to know what, if any discipline you intend to pursue after you review the matter. I understand that Unified Police have furnished you the video I saw, which shows a vehicle driving by but no swerving or contact with your officers' vehicles, contrary to what they reported to Millcreek Unified Police. I await your response.

Cc

Jason Mazuran, UPD Chief of Police

Mayor Troy Walker, president, Utah League of Cities and Towns

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