THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

November 2, 2026

Mr. Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. David J. Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024-6121

Mr. Kenneth Genalo
Field Office Director
New York Field Office
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Enforcement and Removal Operations
Suite 9-110
9th Floor
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Mullin, Mr. Venturella, and Mr. Genalo:

We are deeply troubled by recent reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents using property owned by the City of New York to stage enforcement operations. This use of City property in furtherance of federal immigration enforcement is unauthorized and is therefore illegal, endangers City residents, and sows fear among those who seek to access City property. If your agents continue any unauthorized use of these lots, New York City will take legal action to prevent this unlawful commandeering of City property.

ICE agents have reportedly parked their vehicles and conducted meetings in several City-owned, unstaffed parking lots, including in a parking lot at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, and recently, in parking lots along 111th Street on the west side of Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens, right next door to a City-run preschool and several cultural institutions that children visit every day. ICE has not secured any authorization from the City to use these lots for immigration enforcement. To be clear: the City does not authorize ICE using its property in this manner.

Parking lots connected to City parks are reserved for the safe use and enjoyment of New Yorkers and visitors who wish to use our parks. Use of these lots for other purposes, including ICE's reported use of these lots, amounts to unauthorized activity on City property. Accordingly, you must immediately issue guidance to your agents prohibiting them from using any City lots to stage or conduct enforcement operations.

New York City deeply values its immigrant communities and will continue to use all available lawful means to ensure their safety, well-being, and ability to navigate the City and its resources without fear. I look forward to your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Zohran Kwame Mamdani
Mayor of the City of New York