



October 16, 2026

To the Owners and Operators of Parking Garages and Lots in New York City:

Every day, your garages and lots serve the people who make New York City work: nurses coming off overnight shifts, contractors bringing equipment to job sites, families visiting relatives across the five boroughs, and customers headed to the shops and restaurants that fuel the vibrancy of our streets and our economy. When the City closes roads for emergency repairs, a marathon, or a parade, your facilities give drivers somewhere to go. Thank you for the essential service that you provide to millions of New Yorkers and visitors each day. We write to ask for your help at a critical juncture for our City: we are asking that you **do not rent, lend, or otherwise make your property available to ICE as a staging area for its enforcement operations.**

Many of the New Yorkers who rely on your facilities every day are immigrants. [More than one in three New Yorkers](#)—3.1 million people—were born outside the United States, and immigrants make up 43 percent of our workforce. They own and staff the restaurants, shops, construction sites, hospitals, and small businesses that sustain our City’s vitality. Immigrant New Yorkers account for [hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity every year](#). When immigrant New Yorkers are afraid to drive to work, run errands, or park their cars, every business in this City feels it.

On Thursday, October 8, shortly after 4 p.m., U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents surrounded a car on a crowded street in Marble Hill, and fired multiple rounds at the driver, 28-year-old Oscar Belgal, striking him in the neck, while his 5-year-old son was in the same vehicle. ICE officers [had been utilizing](#) a privately owned parking lot only a few blocks away to stage their operations.

This is not an isolated case. ICE is using private parking facilities across the City as staging grounds for its operations: [from two bank parking lots on Northern Boulevard in Queens](#), to a [garage on Morton Street in Manhattan](#). Each such use, whether part of a formal or informal arrangement or no arrangement at all, gives ICE a launching point for operations that have terrified and terrorized local communities, and risks placing your property, your employees, and your customers at the center of that.

Over the last year, the City has acted with urgency to ensure that property we control is not used for federal civil immigration enforcement actions, in keeping with our local laws. Our administration has reaffirmed and prioritized enforcement of several State and City laws and policies mandating that City property—including City parking garages and lots, schools, shelters,

and hospitals—is to be used for City purposes only. Absent a judicial warrant or limited legal exceptions, non-City law enforcement may not use City property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base.

But these laws govern City property, not the private lots and garages that you operate. That is why we need your help.

In solidarity with immigrant New Yorkers and in our shared commitment to the City we love, we ask that you do not rent, lend, or otherwise make your property available to ICE as a staging area for its enforcement operations. Make it known to ICE that it is not authorized to use your garages and lots. Some of you have already taken this step. On Morton Street in downtown Manhattan, [an operator removed ICE vehicles from a garage](#) after neighbors spoke up. We are grateful for this action and invite every owner to follow this courageous example. Should you like to discuss this matter further please contact our NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs Faiza Ali at FAli@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Time and again, New York City has made it through challenging moments because government, businesses, and community leaders come together and show the world what New Yorkers can do. Owners who refuse to take part in these federal civil immigration enforcement operations advance public safety by protecting their own staff and customers, as well as fellow New Yorkers beyond their lots and garages. They also tell every immigrant New Yorker that they are treasured members of this community and that our City welcomes them with open arms. We hope you will stand with us.

Thank you for all you do for New York City.

With gratitude,

Zohran Kwame Mamdani
Mayor of the City of New York

Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader of the United States Senate
US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives
Congressmember Yvette Clarke
Congressmember Adriano Espaillat
Congressmember Dan Goldman
Congressmember Gregory Meeks
Congressmember Grace Meng
Congressmember Jerrold Nadler
Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Mark Levine, New York City Comptroller

Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate

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