

Hello!

I am submitting written public comment for the Mar. 31 2026 public hearing on the events of March 13, 2026 in Burlington regarding local and state participation in immigration enforcement. Acts of public violence allow legal authority figures to enforce uncoded rules via intense fear with no regard for the democratic community and collaborative legislation. What happened in Burlington on March 13 is yet another example. I'd like local, state and federal law enforcement to be held responsible for their extra-judicial enactment of violence upon their community members. In cases like MN, immigration enforcement targeted family breadwinners or primary earners, placing the rest of the family at risk of housing instability. I'd like the state to provide financial support totalling the cost of living to any families of individuals held in immigration custody as a result of March 13, and any community members harmed as a result of local and immigration enforcement deserve direct financial compensation totalling the treatment bill.

I grew up seeing individuals who looked like me experience verbal escalation, brutality and violence from police officers and school safety officers. Rules in these encounters were never stated outright: you can't be perceived as talking back. You can't ask to leave because that will be perceived as guilt. You can't ask for accommodation even if you are legally entitled to it due to a disability because you will be perceived as asking for special treatment. If you do not comply you will experience retaliation. As a community it is exhausting to live under this: the expectation of violence, with no financial recourse to legal action. Statistics regarding mistreatment within ICE custody from TRAC, the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, indicates that the completion of asylum cases is has gone up, with significantly more being denied this year than in previous years. The distribution of approvals largely depends on the judge, indicating a widespread bias within this process. Some asylum seekers already reside within the United States; the political biases of our administration and these judges affects our current residents' health and safety, and whether they are at risk of their innate human rights being violated by the government they trusted when they moved here.

As participants in our local and state government, we are frequently informed that those placed within criminal justice and deportation systems are responsible for state retaliation and violence against them. In the case of Rumeysa Ozturk, a MA student who was kidnapped by immigration authorities last year, she was illegally and repeatedly denied access to medical care for her disability by both immigration enforcement and nurses. The MA judge issuing on her case was not informed of her location as extra-judicial forces transported her to Vermont and then Louisiana. The national pathway of deportation and complete lack of oversight invokes the legacy of enslavement and human trafficking in the United States. In February of this year a judge declared that the DHS lacks legal grounds to deport Ms. Ozturk. She has lost a year of her in-person educational experience to the proceedings, in addition to any personal funds used to receive legal aid or

recover her health afterwards. What happened to Ms. Ozturk should not be happening anywhere. It should not have happened here.

Thank you,
Lee Collings