



Boston City Council

ED FLYNN

Councilor - District 2

January 9, 2025

Michael Cox
Commissioner, Boston Police Department
1 Schroeder Plaza
Boston, MA 02120

RE: 2024 Boston Detainer Requests

Dear Commissioner Cox,

I am writing today seeking clarification regarding the number of federal immigration detainer requests Boston received in 2024. The Boston Herald reported today that there were 198 immigration detainer requests by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last year, far higher than the 15 detainer requests communicated by the Boston Police Department in a letter to the City Clerk. I have concerns and questions about the discrepancy of this data.

According to the article, ICE requested the Boston Police Department to transfer custody of 198 individuals, citing that these individuals were involved in criminal activity. The report stated the criminal charges included violent and serious crimes such as armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on a police officer, assault to murder, possession of a firearm, possession of a large capacity weapon, possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, trafficking of heroin, indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or older, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and trafficking over 200 grams of cocaine. If there were 183 more individuals that were requested to be detained by federal law enforcement officials, why were they not also accounted for in your letter to the City Clerk? It is important that the Boston City Council and the public are provided with the most accurate and up-to-date statistics to inform our policies.

It is critical that the Boston Police Department maintains a positive and respectful working relationship with federal law enforcement partners. When someone commits a crime, regardless of immigration status, we can't stand in the way of justice for a victim or respect for the rule of law and society. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor
U.S. Navy (Retired)