

Submitter:

Taylor Giles

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR203

I am an elected city councilor for Sherwood, OR although I am only speaking for myself. Over the last several weeks, cities and communities across Washington County have been terrorized by violence on our streets - it is my understanding these are ICE agents. However they do not wear uniforms, they cover their faces and they do not provide identification. They also do not provide warrants, judicial or otherwise. Our constituents are scared as we see unknown cars and vans hovering around neighborhoods, we hear helicopters overhead and so many families experience their loved ones being disappeared.

Here are examples of the violence we are witnessing:

Abandoned cars with broken windows found on the street or in parking lots - community volunteers are working hard to find vehicle owners and report the unthinkable to families (I had to tell a woman that her brother had been taken and that I was not able to tell her where he was).

Pepper spraying individuals filming - alleged agents using excessive force against community members exercising protected rights

Running red lights and speeding across streets, violating our city and state laws and endangering lives

Switching license plates - we have seen a license plate used on multiple cars and we have seen the same car with different plates.

An incident led to a medical emergency sending a Washington County resident to the hospital - we must ask: did the agents identify themselves? Was there a judicial warrant provided?

Helicopters overhead at all hours of the day - what are these aircraft doing?

We are finding multiple cases where there is no legal basis for the detention – no reasonable suspicion, no probable cause. The bar of reasonable suspicion is not being met. In some cases, people announce that they are citizens or present appropriate documents and they are being taken regardless.

People seeking safety in America deserve humanity and are guaranteed due process. People in Oregon deserve to feel safe - we cannot continue to let our communities be targeted and tormented.

Just as you have done, I took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the state of Oregon, and the Charter and Ordinances of our respective jurisdictions. We are with you in this fight to defend the Constitution, which is being disregarded every day with every abduction.

In solidarity and with urgency,
Taylor Giles
Sherwood, OR