



## KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

Sheriff Marian Brown  
Dallas County Sheriff's Office  
133 N. Riverfront Blvd.  
Dallas, TX, 75207

Sheriff Brown:

I am writing to address your troubling refusal to seek a cooperative agreement with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

As you know, the Texas Government Code requires “[t]he sheriff of each county that operates a jail” to “request and enter into an immigration law enforcement agreement to authorize the sheriff and officers [and] employees...to enforce federal immigration law.” Tex. Gov’t Code § 753.051(a). These agreements are specifically contemplated by federal law, and, when in place, authorize the “State, or any political subdivision of [the] State” to perform the “function[s] of [a] [federal] immigration officer in relation to the investigation, apprehension, or detention of aliens in the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g)(1) (authorizing ‘287(g) agreements’).

The decision of whether to seek such an agreement is not yours to make. By enacting § 753.051, the Texas Legislature created a mandatory statewide policy of cooperation between county sheriffs and ICE.

Nevertheless, on October 24, 2025—after this law was passed—you publicly declared that “no additional efforts” would be put towards such an agreement.<sup>1</sup> You have not subsequently recanted these statements nor, to date, has your office reported any attempts to solicit an agreement with ICE. But, as of January 1, 2026, sheriffs “who have not entered into an agreement under § 753.051” are required to “provide proof to the attorney general of the sheriff’s attempt to enter into [an] agreement.” *See* Tex. Gov’t Code § 753.153.

Notably, you stand alone in your failure to comply with this law. And I will not let the people of Dallas County pay the price for your dereliction of duty. Your colleagues in El Paso, Bexar, and Harris Counties have either finalized an agreement with ICE or are in the process of negotiating agreements.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Your remarks were reported by several press outlets. *See e.g., Dallas Police Chief doubles down on decision to reject \$25M ICE partnership*, NBC-5, Oct. 25, 2025, <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/dallas-police-chief-ice-partnership-rejection/3936569/>;

<sup>2</sup> Current 287(g) agreements between ICE and the El Paso and Bexar Sheriff’s Office can be accessed respectively at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/287gMOA/elpasocountysheriffsoffice.pdf>; [https://www.ice.gov/doclib/287gMOA/BexarCoSheriffsOfficeTX\\_WSO\\_MOA\\_10172025.pdf](https://www.ice.gov/doclib/287gMOA/BexarCoSheriffsOfficeTX_WSO_MOA_10172025.pdf); *see also Sheriff Ed Gonzalez’s third term tests reform in Harris County’s jail*, Houston Defender, Sept. 5, 2025 (reporting that

This letter is sent as a courtesy to remind you that compliance with § 753.051 is not optional. You must negotiate a 287(g) agreement with ICE and enter such an agreement if ICE offers its approval.

Indeed, your public rejection of cooperation with ICE already subjects you to legal liability. My Office has the authority to “bring an action against a sheriff who fails to comply with this chapter...” *Id.* at § 753.154(a). Your unambiguous rejection of any “additional efforts” to procure a cooperative agreement with ICE constitutes an actionable disavowal of the statute. *See State v. Hollins*, 620 S.W.3d 400, 404-05, 409-10 (Tex. 2020) (holding that a county official’s declaration that he would not comply with Election Code provision gave rise to an action by the State).

To prevent the need for additional action, you must promptly “request and enter” a 287(g) agreement with ICE. Your attempts to secure an agreement should be immediately reported to my Office.

If efforts are not undertaken and reported before Monday, June 1, 2026, I will consider that failure as confirmation of your refusal to comply with § 753.051. And I will use every tool available to secure compliance and make sure that you are personally held accountable for your failure to comply with the law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Paxton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Paxton

Attorney General of Texas