

THE REVERE ACTION TOOLKIT FOR HOW TO BE A SENTINEL

# REVERE RIDER BRIEFING

## Summary of Events and Lessons Learned from Minneapolis

Operation Metro Surge · December 2025 – March 2026

### ABOUT THIS BRIEFING

This is our summary of Operation Metro Surge — a fact-based, chronological account of activities and events involving Federal Immigration Enforcement in Minneapolis, MN from December 2025 through March 2026.

*Compiled from documented sources including: Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, CBS News, ABC News, NBC News, PBS NewsHour, The Intercept, ProPublica, Bellingcat, Minnesota Reformer, Minneapolis Star Tribune, TIME, Al Jazeera, Stateline, the City of Minneapolis, City of St. Paul, ACLU of Minnesota, and the U.S. House Committee on Oversight.*

## BACKGROUND AND PRETEXT

One of Donald Trump's key campaign promises during his 2024 presidential campaign was a crackdown on illegal immigration and to commence mass-deportation operations. After his inauguration for his second term, Trump signed multiple executive orders related to immigration, and the Department of Homeland Security and ICE agents began raids across the country.

Minnesota was chosen as a focal point due to an explosive political controversy involving alleged fraud in federally-funded childcare and food programs, a substantial portion of which involved businesses operated by members of the Somali-American community. The Trump administration had turned its attention to Minnesota after a right-wing media outlet published unsubstantiated allegations that Somali Minnesotans were funding terrorism with money stolen from government programs.

An analysis of who was actually targeted is important context: the immigration enforcement surge purported to target Somali immigrants, the vast majority of whom are citizens or legal permanent residents.

President Trump has regularly cited Somalia — often in incendiary terms — to justify his mass deportation campaign. Trump called people from Somalia "garbage" and said they "contribute nothing." "I don't want them in our country. I'll be honest with you," the president said.

## PHASE ONE: INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

### December 1–31, 2025

On December 1–3, DHS launched Operation Metro Surge in the Twin Cities. Large numbers of ICE and CBP personnel were deployed. Federal officials portrayed the operation as targeting individuals with deportation orders. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey issued an executive order restricting ICE use of certain city-owned facilities.

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- Dec. 4** | ICE reported 12 arrests of Somali and Latino individuals who ICE claimed had criminal backgrounds.
- Dec. 8** | President Trump linked the immigration crackdown to a series of alleged fraud cases involving government funds and the Somali community.
- Dec. 9–10** | Two U.S. citizens were detained by ICE and later released.
- Dec. 13** | DHS reported the operation had resulted in the arrest of 400 undocumented immigrants — but reporting quickly raised questions about characterizations, revealing some individuals had been transferred from state custody before December 1, 2025, including one transferred in 2003.
- Dec. 17** | First ACLU class-action lawsuit (Tincher et al. v. Noem et al.) filed, alleging constitutional violations including retaliatory arrests of observers and traffic stops without reasonable suspicion, violating First and Fourth Amendment rights.
- Dec. 30** | HHS Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill froze all child care payments to Minnesota. The state typically receives ~\$185 million annually, supporting care for 19,000 children. Investigators visited all accused care centers — all were operating as expected.

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## PHASE TWO: THE SURGE ESCALATION

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### January 1–6, 2026

Federal authorities began increasing immigration arrests in the Minneapolis area late last year. On January 6, DHS announced an expansion — what it called the largest immigration enforcement operation ever carried out — sending 2,000 agents to the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area.

The scale was staggering. Roughly 2,000 agents and officers from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations and Homeland Security Investigations, plus Tactical Special Response Teams, deployed to Minneapolis. The number of HSI agents sent was roughly equivalent to the entire HSI workforce assigned to the state of Arizona. In total, some 3,000 federal officers and agents were deployed — compared to just 600 officers in the Minneapolis Police Department.

Hotels and the civilian response to the surge announcement: DHS alleged that Hilton launched a 'coordinated campaign' to refuse service to agents by cancelling room reservations in Minneapolis as escalated enforcement was readied. Screenshots DHS posted on X appeared to show emails from a Hilton address stating immigration agents were not allowed to stay at the Hampton Inn Lakeville property.

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## RACIAL PROFILING: DOCUMENTED INCIDENTS

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One of the most thoroughly documented patterns of Operation Metro Surge was the targeting of people based on perceived Somali or Latino identity rather than any individual legal basis.

**THE HUSSEN CASE**

Mubashir Khalif Hussien, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen, was walking to lunch in Cedar-Riverside when stopped by multiple masked ICE agents. He repeatedly said "I'm a citizen" but agents refused to look at his ID. He was put in an SUV, driven to the Whipple building, shackled, fingerprinted — and released only after showing a photo of his passport card.

**THE EYDARUS CASE**

Mahamed Eydarus, a 25-year-old U.S. citizen of Somali descent, was detained alongside his mother while shoveling snow after an overnight shift as a personal care assistant. Agents asked why they were speaking a foreign language and only left after both showed identification.

**THE 'JAVIER DOE' CASE**

A Latino man was 'harassed' and 'violently tackled' by Border Patrol agents, then driven around in their car and finally left in a Walmart parking lot, sobbing on the ground — after they looked at his passport.

**CITY EMPLOYEES TARGETED**

Four Minneapolis Public Works employees were approached by agents who questioned the three non-white workers about citizenship but did not question the white employee.

**NATIVE AMERICANS SWEEP UP**

Native Americans were also detained, with tribal authorities raising alarms about members being caught in ICE operations.

On January 15, 2026, the ACLU filed a second class-action lawsuit alleging widespread racial profiling by federal immigration agents. The complaint argued that arrests based solely on ethnic appearance or accent violate the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause, the Equal Protection Clause, and the prohibition against arbitrary detention without probable cause.

**⚠ The 'Kavanaugh Stops' Legal Theory**

The legal theory being deployed by DHS to justify these stops was controversial. Critics described them as so-called 'Kavanaugh stops' — a term that emerged after a concurring opinion by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2025 suggested immigration officers may consider factors such as appearance, language, or location when briefly stopping people to assess immigration status.

**INTIMIDATION OF OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS**

Attempts by U.S. citizens to observe or protest federal immigration raids were met with surveillance, threats, arrests, and use of force — including beatings, chemical irritants, flashbangs, and LRADs. Journalists were arrested after covering protests against ICE.

In Maine, federal agents went to the home of an observer and threatened her. In another incident, a federal agent told a woman who was filming him that she was now in "a nice little database" as a domestic terrorist.

*After the killing of Renée Good, the intimidation of observers escalated openly. Federal agents repeatedly 'invoked Good's death' and 'referred to civilians learning their lesson' in multiple encounters. A legal observer arrested on January 11 reported that an ICE agent who had pepper sprayed into the vents of her car said: 'you guys gotta stop obstructing us, that's why that lesbian bitch is dead.'*

## THE KILLING OF RENÉE GOOD

### January 7, 2026

Renée Nicole Macklin Good was an American citizen and mother of three who had just dropped off her six-year-old at school. She and her wife headed to the neighborhood where the shooting later occurred to observe and object to the presence of ICE in their community.

Good's Honda Pilot was stopped diagonally on Portland Avenue. Seconds later, at least three masked federal agents were seen walking toward the vehicle as bystanders whistled and yelled at officers. New video obtained by ABC News shows Good turning her vehicle's steering wheel to the right, away from the agent, just over one second before the first shot is fired.

#### Timeline of Shots Fired

First shot fired: 9:37:13 a.m.  
 Time between 1st and 2nd shot: 399 milliseconds  
 Time between 2nd and 3rd shot: 299 milliseconds  
**Independent autopsy: three gunshot wounds, including one to the head.**

At the scene, a woman was heard saying, "They killed my wife. I don't know what to do." Another video shows ICE agents blocking a physician from assisting Good. "I'm a physician," said the doctor. "I don't care," responded one of the agents.

### The Agent

The agent later identified as Jonathan Ross was a 10-year ICE officer and Iraq War veteran who had been dragged about 100 yards six months prior by a driver during an immigration operation in a Minneapolis suburb. Ross joined ICE in 2015, previously served in Iraq with the Indiana National Guard, and became a US Border Patrol agent in 2007.

### The Government's False Narrative

#### DHS CLAIM

DHS initially said agent Jonathan Ross fired in self-defense after Good allegedly tried to run over officers. DHS Secretary Noem said: "It's clearly established law that a vehicle driven by a person and used to harm someone is a deadly weapon."

#### DOCUMENTED FACTS

Minnesota officials later stated the footage did not support DHS's description of an imminent threat. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey called the federal agency's description of events "bulls---" and a "garbage narrative." Video showed Good's wheels turning away from the agent before the first shot.

Minnesota officials announced on January 9 an independent state investigation and created a secure portal for the public to submit photos and videos directly to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. State investigators were denied access to the shooting scene by the federal government.

## TRAINING DEFICIENCIES: EXPERT ASSESSMENTS

The killings prompted expert scrutiny of whether agents deployed under Operation Metro Surge were qualified for urban law enforcement operations.

### EXPERT ASSESSMENT

Former CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske told PBS NewsHour that federal agents are "untrained and unskilled for policing an urban environment." "They don't have that kind of experience and background and training to work in an environment that can actually become a bit hostile," he said. "City police officers know how to handle those things. It's very obvious that ICE and the Border Patrol do not."

### POLICY GAP

While DHS prohibits officers from firing at the operator of a moving vehicle unless necessary to stop a serious threat, its rules do not explicitly instruct officers to get out of the way of moving vehicles when possible — a gap compared to many municipal departments that train officers to step aside rather than fire into vehicles.

Since July 2025, there have been at least 17 open-fire incidents involving federal immigration agents, according to data compiled by The Trace, a nonprofit and nonpartisan news outlet investigating gun violence.

A growing pattern of aggressive tactics and conflicting evidence raised serious questions about how federal immigration agents use lethal and less-lethal force, and how DHS officials describe incidents to the public. In court filings related to a civil lawsuit about an ICE operation in Chicago, U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis found the DHS evidence "difficult, if not impossible to believe."

## JANUARY 8–23: ESCALATION AND CONTINUED VIOLATIONS

Despite widely publicizing dozens of arrests of protestors and referring to arrestees as violent "rioters" who assaulted federal agents, the Department of Justice repeatedly reduced formal charges against protestors to the level of a misdemeanor, or dismissed charges altogether. This pattern led to criticism from former federal attorneys that the arrests were sought to intimidate opponents rather than seek convictions.

**Jan. 14**

An ICE agent shot a Venezuelan man, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, in the leg in north Minneapolis.

**Jan. 19**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem claimed on Twitter that ICE had "arrested over 10,000 criminal illegal aliens" in Minneapolis, including 3,000 in the past six weeks — widely scrutinized. In

January 2026, ICE reported that 103 out of 2,000 arrestees (~5%) had records of violent crimes.

**Jan. 23**

A massive public demonstration: more than 50,000 people marched in frigid weather through downtown Minneapolis to demand "ICE out!" Over 700 local businesses closed in solidarity in what organizers billed "A Day of Truth and Freedom." An estimated 100 clergy were arrested outside the city's airport decrying daily deportation flights.

**Jan. 28**

Minnesota chief U.S. District Judge Patrick Schiltz found that ICE violated at least 96 court orders in Minnesota since January 1, 2026.

## THE KILLING OF ALEX PRETTI

**January 24, 2026**

Alex Jeffrey Pretti, 37, was an American intensive care nurse for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. He was shot multiple times and killed by two United States Customs and Border Protection officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The interaction that ended in Pretti's death began at least three minutes earlier when Pretti appeared to be using his phone to record CBP officers. Minutes later, Pretti was pinned on the street by multiple federal agents — visibly being hit by one of them — when one of the officers can be seen leaving the struggle with what appears to be a gun.

According to the government's own report to Congress, CBP agents were conducting an operation when an officer was "confronted by two female civilians blowing whistles." The officer pushed them both away, one ran to Pretti. The officer attempted to move them out of the roadway; when they did not move, the officer deployed pepper spray toward both Pretti and the woman. CBP agents then "attempted to take Pretti into custody."

At least five additional federal agents approached and attempted to force Pretti to the ground. Twenty-five seconds after Pretti was first sprayed, a shot was heard, followed by nine more shots in the span of about six seconds. Closer inspection of videos shows that an agent appears to remove a weapon from the melee before the first shots are fired — and another video shows the agent removing a gun from a holster in Pretti's waistband before he is shot. Two masked agents fired 10 shots at Pretti as he lay on the ground after being pepper-sprayed.

### The Agents Identified

The two federal immigration agents who fired on Pretti are identified in government records as Border Patrol agent Jesus Ochoa and Customs and Border Protection officer Raymundo Gutierrez. Both were assigned to Operation Metro Surge. CBP refused to release their names and disclosed few other facts about the deadly incident.

### Expert Analysis

**EXPERT ASSESSMENT**

"What the videos depict is that this guy did not walk up to anybody from CBP in a threatening manner," said former acting DHS undersecretary for intelligence John Cohen. "For [DHS] to construe that he arrived at that location with the intent to shoot those border patrol officers, there's nothing in the video evidence that we've seen thus far that would support that."

**The Government's False Narrative, Again****DHS CLAIM**

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem described Pretti's actions as "domestic terrorism." CBP commander Gregory Bovino said "The victims are the Border Patrol agents." Deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller posted on social media that an "assassin" attempted to take the lives of federal agents.

**DOCUMENTED FACTS**

Separate analysis of footage by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and CNN directly counter the administration's account of the shooting. As with the Renée Good case, state investigators were denied access to the shooting scene by the federal government.

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee, in a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, accused the Justice Department of covering up evidence in both Pretti's and Good's killings. "DOJ has also blocked prosecutors and agents from cooperating with state law enforcement officials and prevented state officials from accessing evidence," the letter said.

**STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIAL RESPONSES****MAYOR JACOB FREY**

Consistently refused to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement, characterized the operation as causing chaos, and demanded the withdrawal of federal agents. Called the government's self-defense narrative in the Good shooting "bulls---."

**GOVERNOR TIM WALZ**

Called Good's death "the consequences of governance designed to generate fear, headlines and conflict." Ordered the state's National Guard to adopt a state of preparedness. On January 24, following Pretti's killing, activated the Minnesota National Guard.

**AG KEITH ELLISON**

Filed a joint state/city lawsuit on January 12, 2026, on behalf of the state and cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul against DHS, alleging racial profiling, warrantless arrests, and excessive force.

**MINNEAPOLIS PD**

Refused to cooperate with immigration enforcement. Under MPD policy and the City's separation ordinance, officers do not take actions to determine, verify, or detect immigration status, or provide information to immigration enforcement agents for the purpose of locating a person solely for immigration enforcement.

**CITY OF ST. PAUL**

Mayor Kaohly Her signed Ordinance 26-5, prohibiting law enforcement staging on city-owned property, restricting access to non-public city spaces, and codifying a December 19, 2025 cease-and-desist directive to federal law enforcement.

**Cost to the City**

Minneapolis Police logged more than 3,000 overtime hours by January 9, 2026, with overtime costs exceeding \$2 million through January 11. The city's preliminary impact assessment estimated at least \$203.1 million in community and economic impact, including losses to workers, businesses, food and housing stability, and mental health services.

**Military Deployments Threatened and Rescinded**

An unnamed Defense Department source confirmed that a standby order was issued in response to Trump's threats to invoke the Insurrection Act. On January 20, a second standby order was issued to a brigade of the Military Police Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. On February 3, ABC News reported that the United States Northern Command had issued a stand down order the previous weekend.

**THE CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE: ORGANIZED, ORGANIC, AND EFFECTIVE**

The community response to Operation Metro Surge drew on years of prior organizing and proved remarkably effective.

**Historical Roots**

University of Minnesota doctoral candidate Daniel Cueto-Villalobos traces neighborhood groups that sprang into action back to mutual networks set up during the 2020 COVID pandemic and in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. "What it did was force us to talk to each other in the most basic sense, and get together as a community to develop these networks that we see really playing out today."

**The Whistle Networks**

As in other cities including Los Angeles and Chicago, "ICE Watch" volunteers sounded 3D-printed whistles and car horns to alert neighbors during raids. Car horns and whistles became a constant in parts of the Twin Cities, alerting immigrants to lock their doors and citizens to come out and film when ICE was active. Renée Good herself was part of this observer network when she was killed.

**Legal Observer Training**

Immigrant advocacy organizations organized constitutional observer trainings and distributed "know your rights" information on flyers. Attendance at observer trainings increased sharply in the weeks following Good's death.

**Mutual Aid at Scale**

The siege ignited a relief effort on the scale of a natural disaster response. Churches, schools, coffee shops and stores — including a Minneapolis sex toy shop — became pop-up collection centers for food and necessities distributed to

immigrants sheltering at home. Mutual aid groups expanded food distribution and rent assistance.

### Business Solidarity

The Minneapolis Foundation activated \$3.5 million for small businesses. The Women's Foundation of Minnesota hosted an Immigrant Rapid Response Fund. The Lake Street Council fundraised for small businesses. Mercado Central — at the heart of south Minneapolis, owned and operated by immigrants — received direct community support to stay open.

### Documentation & Evidence

Minnesota officials created a secure portal for the public to submit photos and videos directly to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension — a formal government infrastructure built specifically to harvest civilian documentation of federal agent misconduct.

### The 50,000-Person March

On January 23, more than 50,000 people marched in frigid weather through downtown Minneapolis. Over 700 local businesses closed in solidarity in "A Day of Truth and Freedom." An estimated 100 clergy were arrested outside the city's airport decrying deportation flights.

## THE DRAWDOWN

### Late January – February 2026

In the wake of two people shot dead by federal agents in Minneapolis and widespread demonstrations, the Trump Administration said it was winding down its massive immigration enforcement operation. "I have proposed and President Trump has concurred that this surge operation conclude," border czar Tom Homan told reporters.

Homan took over leadership of Operation Metro Surge from Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino and set up meetings with local and state leaders including sheriffs, police chiefs, Governor Walz, Mayor Frey, and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison.

However, the withdrawal was incomplete and contested. ICE reduced their presence in the Twin Cities while continuing to operate in the suburbs including Coon Rapids, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Cedar-Riverside, Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Apple Valley. Tactics included using drones, traveling in smaller groups in plain clothes, going door-to-door pretending to be environmental canvassers, and monitoring bus stops.

*Senator Elizabeth Warren: "Until there are rules in place that are enforceable, and there's oversight in place, ICE has given every indication that they are going to keep roaring back, claiming they own the streets."*

It is undeniable that sustained protests, legal action, and local pressure raised the political costs of the Trump administration's surge and helped force a drawdown.

## STATUS AS OF EARLY MARCH 2026

Federal officials filed sworn affidavits confirming that Operation Metro Surge is drawing down sharply, with a peak presence of more than 4,000 federal personnel in the state during the operation. Projections indicate a little more than 400 Enforcement and Removal Operations officers and Homeland Security Investigators will remain after the drawdown.

### LEGAL BATTLES CONTINUE

Two major lawsuits — the state case and the ACLU case — remain active. Court disputes over documents, attorney access, alleged retaliatory conduct, and contested detainer representations remain active questions for judges. The outcome of these lawsuits will determine future federal enforcement protocols in the state.

### FBI EVIDENCE WITHHELD

The FBI formally notified the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension on February 13 that it will not provide the BCA with access to any information or evidence collected in the January 24 shooting death of Alex Pretti.

### PERJURY PROBES

As of mid-February, federal authorities opened a perjury investigation into ICE officers' testimony about the shooting of a separate Venezuelan man during the operation.

## The Human Toll

### **Two U.S. citizens — Renée Good, a mother of three and poet, and Alex Pretti, a VA ICU nurse — were killed by federal agents.**

One person detained by ICE died in custody. Thousands of families were separated.

Animal shelters reported a sizable increase in surrendered animals from the suburbs as a result of pet owners detained by immigration agents.

And a city already bearing deep wounds from the murder of George Floyd found itself, five years later, once again the site of documented lethal abuse of power by agents of the state — and once again organizing to resist.

## KEY PRIMARY SOURCES

*Minneapolis City government official statements; City of St. Paul government official statements; ACLU of Minnesota court filings and press releases; U.S. House Committee on Oversight report on the Operation Metro Surge shootings; Bellingcat open-source forensic analysis; ProPublica investigative reporting; and contemporaneous reporting by the Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, CBS News, ABC News, NBC News, PBS NewsHour, Minnesota Reformer, Minneapolis Star Tribune, TIME, Al Jazeera, and Stateline.*

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