

ICE Community Defense



LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District

The world's first city-recognized LEATHER and LGBTQ Cultural District

Robert Costic 2026

Disclaimer

This is not legal advice. Laws, risks, and enforcement practices can change; consult qualified legal support for case-specific guidance.

Sources

- California Immigrant Policy Center
- ICE Raid Toolkit (Immigrant Defense Project/Center for Constitutional Rights)
- Immigrant Defense Network
- San Francisco Community Health Center
- San Francisco Immigrant Legal & Education Network (SFILEN)

Part One: Why Do We Care?

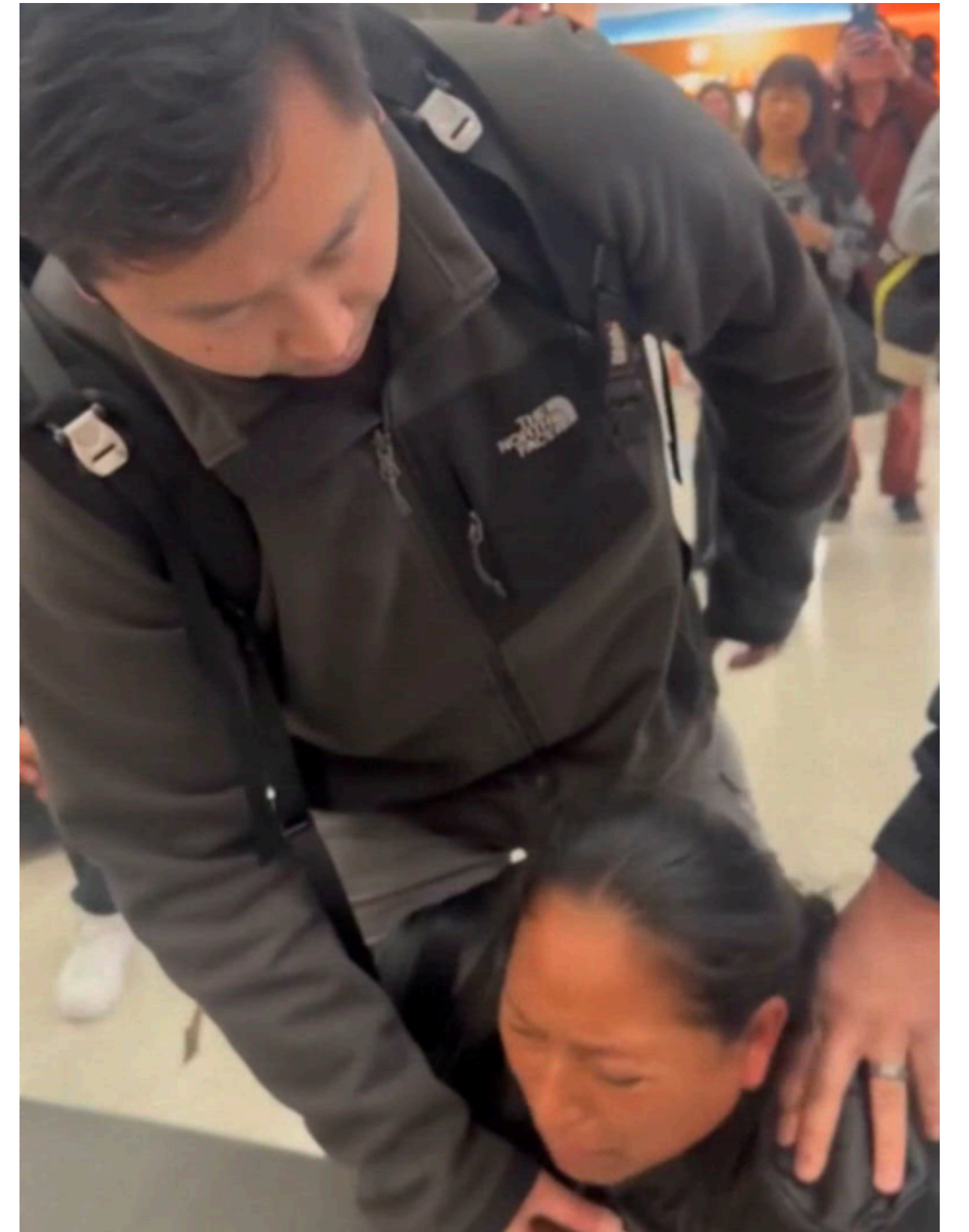
- ICE was recently given an enormous budget of \$75 billion, which makes it the largest federal law enforcement agency by funding.
- We've seen how ICE was deployed in Minnesota, where they terrorized and murdered citizens.
- There is concern that ICE could be used as a tool in our federal government's push toward autocracy.

Part One: Why Do We Care?

ICE in San Francisco

Although ICE has not made a presence in San Francisco as they did in Minneapolis, there are stories of their activities in our communities:

- On March 22, 2026 ICE targeted a mother and her child at the SF International Airport after TSA flagged their immigration status and travel plans.



Part One: Why Do We Care?

ICE in San Francisco

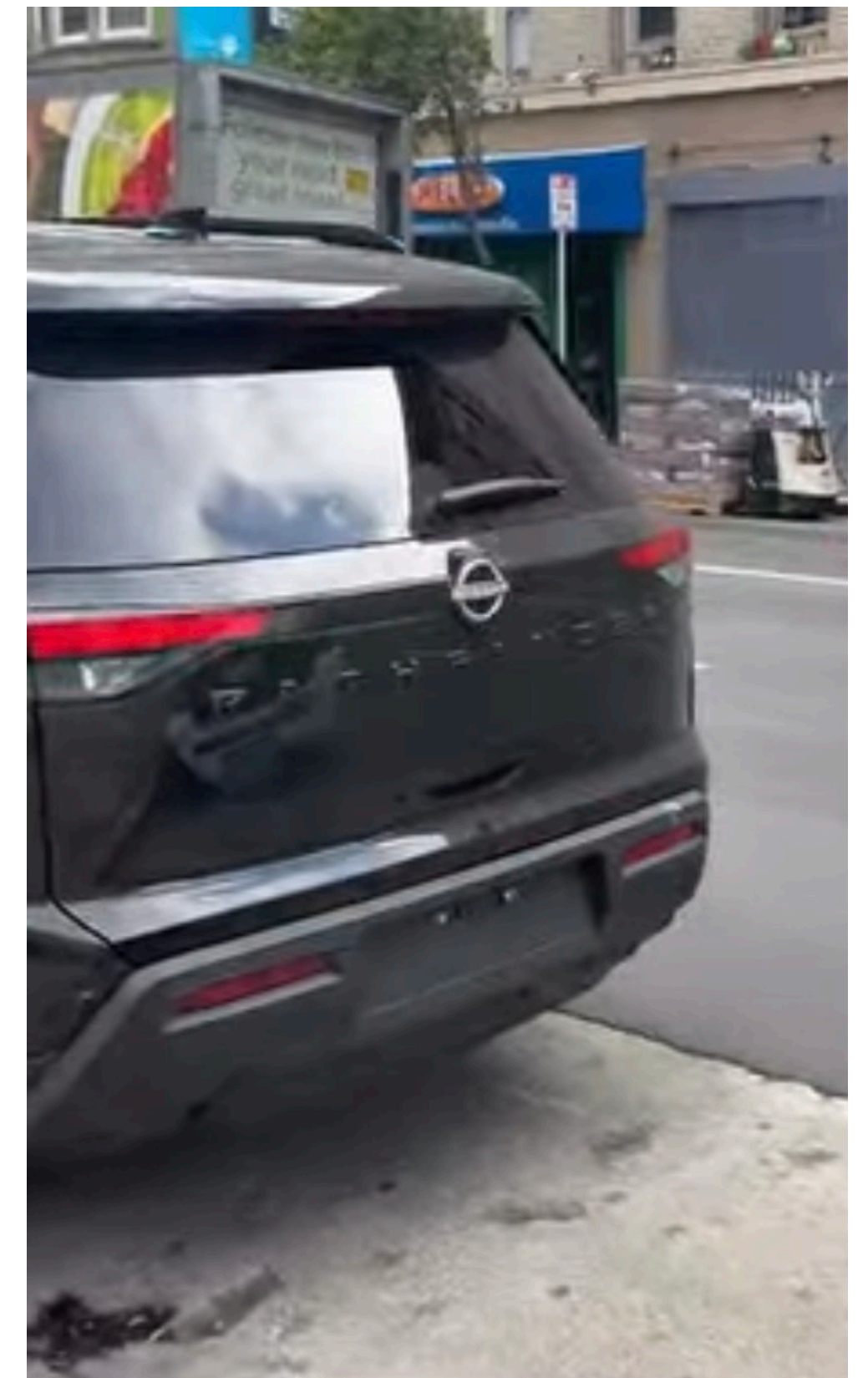
On May 1, 2026 the airport workers' union protested against ICE's presence at airports. Among those present were Board President Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor Connie Chan, State Senator Josh Becker, and former Supervisor Jane Kim blocked the street to the international terminal.



Part One: Why Do We Care?

ICE in San Francisco

Federal agent vehicles spotted in SF:



Part Two: Preparedness

Things we can do before anything happens.

LEGAL PLANNING

- Organize documents now so a trusted person can help if someone is detained.
- Store originals in a safe place; store copies where a trusted person can access them.
- Gather immigration history documents (including anything showing an A# if applicable).
- Gather criminal history documents (e.g., certificates of disposition / rap sheet).
- Get screened by a reputable lawyer or nonprofit as early as possible.
- If hiring a lawyer: use a signed contract in your preferred language; keep copies + receipts.

Part Two: Preparedness

Things we can do before anything happens.

MEDICAL PLANNING

- Write down crucial medical info to carry: doctors' contacts, medications + dosages.
- Choose a trusted person who can access medical info if someone is detained.
- Consider a HIPAA form so doctors can share info with that person.

CHILDCARE PLANNING

- Confirm an emergency caretaker; share school and doctor contacts, allergies/meds, and emergency contacts.
- Store key documents where the caretaker can access them.
- Ask a lawyer about options like special power of attorney or guardianship.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Consult an expert about a financial power of attorney so a trusted person can access accounts, pay bills, or help pay bond if needed.
- Make a plan for paycheck access, rent/utilities, and critical recurring payments.

PART THREE: AT YOUR DOOR

What to do when ICE comes to your residence.



- You do not have to let agents into your home unless they have a warrant signed by a judge authorizing entry.
- Ask them to slip the warrant under the door before you open it.
- Opening the door does not mean you consent. Consent must be clear and voluntary.
- Do not lie, do not show false documents, and do not run or physically resist arrest.
- Tell agents immediately about urgent medical or childcare concerns.

PART THREE: AT YOUR DOOR

If agents enter or begin to search.

- If they entered without consent, clearly state, “I do not consent to this. Please leave the house.”
- If they search: “I do not consent to this search. Please leave the house.” Repeat even if they ignore you.
- Do not hand over passports/consular/travel documents unless a judge-signed search warrant lists those items.
- If asked to gather documents, you can say you don’t want to bring or give anything over (never give false documents).



Part Four: Observing & Filming

What to do if you see ICE activity.

CORE JOBS:

- Observe and document law enforcement interactions.
- Inform individuals about basic rights and due process (without escalating).
- Share support resources and connect people to help.

OBSERVER POSTURE:

- Identify yourself when appropriate; wear an observer badge if trained.
- Keep distance (often trained at ~8 feet) and avoid physical contact.
- Hands visible; calm tone; no obstruction.

REALITY CHECK: There may be no truly safe way to film right now. Documenters may be targeted. Weigh the risk and your comfort level before engaging.

Part Four: Observing & Filming

Before filming: safety and device protection.



- Assume access to your phone could create digital surveillance risks if your device is seized or searched.
- Consider using an alternative device instead of your everyday phone when possible.
- If using your daily device, turn off biometrics (Face ID/fingerprint) and use a PIN/password.
- Plan your “red lines” in advance: when to stop filming and when to leave.

Part Four: Observing & Filming

During filming, capture context and reduce disputes.

- Start recording as soon as you're in the vicinity; keep the camera rolling as long as you safely can.
- Film horizontally (captures more of the scene).
- Do a slow 360° pan early to show surroundings.
- Keep distance and do not interfere with law enforcement actions.
- If agents address you, show calm compliance to de-escalate. If needed for safety, stop filming and leave.



Part Four: Observing & Filming

What to capture: video and written notes.



- Identifiers: names/badge numbers (if visible), agency markings, vehicles/plates (when safe).
- Location + time: street signs, landmarks, date/time.
- Actions + commands: what was said, what happened, use of force, medical distress, separation of family members.
- Witnesses: names/contact info when consent is possible.

S.A.L.U.T.E. (quick documentation framework)

Size

Activity

Location

Uniform

Time

Equipment

Part Four: Observing & Filming

Warrants and on-scene questions.

- You can ask for a signed judicial warrant. If one is shown, capture it on video/photo if safe.
- Agents may show an administrative document; do not argue the paperwork on scene — document and let attorneys evaluate later.
- Ask simple, non-confrontational questions when appropriate: “What’s happening?” “Who is being detained?” “Do you have a signed judicial warrant?”

No obstruction, always.

Do not block, touch, or physically interfere. Your value is accurate documentation and witness support.

Part Four: Observing & Filming

If you are confronted, stopped, or detained.

- Stay calm. Do not run. Do not resist.
- Ask, “Am I being detained?” and “Am I free to go?”
- If detained/arrested: “I want to remain silent and speak to a lawyer.”
- If de-escalation requires it for safety, stop filming and leave.

Why this matters

Capturing yourself interacting peacefully and complying (when safe) can help counter claims that you interfered.



Part Five: After-Action

After filming, preserve evidence.

- Create backups of footage as soon as possible.
- Do not edit footage or change file names on the original.
- If edits are needed (blur/crop), do them on a duplicate copy — preserve the original file intact.
- Be intentional about cloud storage. Shared drives can be subpoenaed.

Part Five: After-Action

Before posting, reduce harm and choose the right channel.

- Pause before posting. Consider risks to people shown in the video (bystanders, minors, impacted families).
- Consider alternatives to posting from your own accounts: share directly with lawyers, investigators, civil society groups, or media outlets.
- If publishing: consider blurring faces, scrubbing metadata, and removing location data.

Part Five: After-Action

Report raids and connect people to support.

- Report a raid to trusted local organizations and hotlines (add your local list).
- Examples referenced in the toolkit: California TRUST hotline; United We Dream; Immigrant Defense Project (NY).
- When reporting, share: time/date, exact location, what happened, consent issues, threats/force, witnesses, and urgent needs.

Part Five: After-Action

Rapid-Response Networks

FROM CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY CENTER:

Northern California

- Central del Pueblo Rapid Response Network (Humboldt County) – 707-200-8091
- Sacramento Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 916-382-0256
- NorCal Resist Bond Fund – 916-382-0256

Bay Area

- Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP) – Hotline: 510-241-4011
- Marin Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 415-991-4545
- North Bay Rapid Response Network (Sonoma, Napa & Solano Counties) – Hotline: 707- 800-4544
- San Francisco Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 415-200-1548
- San Mateo County Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 203-666-4472
- Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 408-290-1144
- Stand Together Contra Costa – Hotline: 925-900-5151
- West Marin Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 415-755-3622

Central Coast & Central Valley

- Central Valley Watch Rapid Response (Fresno, San Joaquin, Merced, Stanislaus, and Kern Counties) – Hotline: 559-206-0151
- Kern County Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 661-432-2230
- Monterey Rapid Response Network and San Benito County County Solidarity Network – Hotline: 831-204-8082
- Santa Cruz & Pajaro County Your Allied Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 831-239-4289
- 805 Immigrant Rapid Response Network (Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties) – Hotline: (805) 870-8855

Part Five: After-Action

Rapid-Response Networks

Southern California

- Boyle Heights Immigrant Right Network (East Los Angeles) – Hotline: 323-805-1049
- Immigrant Defenders Law Center Rapid Response Legal Hotline (Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties) – Hotline: 213-833-8283
- Los Angeles Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 888-624-4752
- Long Beach – Hotline: 562-276-0267
- Orange County Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 714-881-1558, Email: casererral@ocrapidresponse.org
- (San Bernardino & Riverside Counties) Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice — Hotline: 909-361-4588

San Diego

- Immigration Legal Service Coalition of San Diego – Hotline: 858-751-7553
- (North County San Diego) Alianza Comunitaria – Text Alerts for Checkpoints: Envía “Alianza” al 33733 para español / Send “Alianza2” to 33733 for English
- San Diego Rapid Response Network – Hotline: 619-536-0823

Additional Resources:

- Videos: We Have Rights (English, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Russian, Urdu)
- Referrals: Deportation Defense Legal Services –
- Referrals: Immigration Legal Services (DACA, TPS, Citizenship, etc.)