



**Homeland
Security**

September 15, 2021

ACLU of Nebraska, et. al
134 South 13th Street #1010
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Complaint No. 21-07-ICE-0388

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 17, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) received your March 16, 2021 letter to Secretary Mayorkas urging DHS to end ICE "collaboration programs and practices that entangle state and local agencies in federal immigration enforcement, including the 287(g) programs." Your letter focused on the actions of the Dakota County Sherriff's Office in Dakota City, Nebraska, the state's only 287(g) program. Specifically, you alleged that the "ACLU of Nebraska has fielded intakes of concerned U.S. citizens who have been questioned by a deputy about their citizenship because of their skin color or accent," and that such concerns were compounded by "a racially charged e-mail dated March 19, 2019, to an ICE official from the Dakota County Sheriff." Thank you for contacting us with your concerns. We regret the delay in responding to your complaint.

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, CRCL has the responsibility to review and assess complaints against DHS employees and officials concerning violations of civil rights and civil liberties. On April 21, 2021, CRCL initiated an investigation into these allegations, including a review of the sources cited in the ACLU's letter, as well as information provided from ICE in response to our requests.

CRCL's investigation identified several areas of ongoing concern and, on July 1, 2021, CRCL issued informal advice to ICE detailing remedial measures and suggesting training efforts to address discriminatory behaviors that directly impact the Dakota County Sherriff's Office's immigration encounters, including implicit or unconscious bias and racial profiling.

We appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention; inquiries like yours help DHS meet its obligation to protect civil rights and civil liberties. If in the future you have concerns relating to civil rights and civil liberties violations by DHS, please contact CRCL by phone at 866-644-8360, 866-644-8361 (TTY), or by email at CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security