



#ICEoutofArlington: Call to Action

Through community organizing in Arlington, VA, La ColectiVA has learned of multiple instances of migrant community members being criminalized and arrested by Arlington County police agencies and then transferred to ICE custody for deportation proceedings. This collaboration between violent state agencies violates the dignity of our loved ones and endangers our neighbors and families who are at risk. Community members who have experienced this state violence, La ColectiVA and #DefundNoVAPolice partners are calling for county officials to introduce and pass county-wide policies to end and prevent collaboration and information sharing with ICE.

Instances of Arlington County police collaboration with ICE include the deportation of a long-time community member following an Arlington County Police Department officer calling ICE after a fender bender. Another community member was transferred from the Arlington County Jail to ICE after their family had already paid bail for their release. These are only two examples of policies and practices that create a chilling effect on many community members, inflicting fear and deterring individuals from participating in many community and government functions.

The information on the following Fact Sheet, obtained through a public records request, details the existing voluntary mechanisms that Arlington County Police Department and Sheriff's Office use to maintain their role in the incarceration to deportation pipeline.



Fact Sheet: Arlington County Police Collaboration with ICE¹

Arlington County Police Department officers have discretion to notify ICE if they encounter someone that they think is undocumented in various circumstances, including, among other situations, when any person is arrested (not necessarily charged or convicted) for any offense that may carry a sentence of over a year in prison or the person is suspected of “participating in criminal street gang activity.”

Arlington County Police Department gives its officers complete discretion to contact ICE in these circumstances. This collaboration is completely optional, and officers are not under any legal obligation to notify ICE. Yet, we know that officers will abuse their discretion and put community members at risk.

Arlington County Sheriff’s Office is in charge of the Arlington County Jail. Their policies state that they do not honor ICE detainers (requests by ICE to detain a person for up to 48 hours)² that are not signed by a judge. However, the Sheriff’s Office’s policies instruct employees to notify ICE of the date and time someone with an ICE detainer is being released from the jail. This lets ICE know when to show up to the jail to arrest and detain that person.

From January 2019 until October 2020, Arlington County Sheriff’s Office turned over 104 people with an ICE detainer to ICE and released to the community only 21 people with an ICE detainer.

	People with ICE Detainers Transferred to ICE from Arlington County Jail	People with ICE Detainers Released into their Community from Arlington County Jail
2019	74	15
2020 (as of October)	30	6

With these broad policies that allow law enforcement to collaborate with ICE, our community members are at risk of ICE detention and deportation. Arlington County must ensure that Arlington County police immediately stop all collaboration with ICE.

¹ This information was obtained by La ColectiVA through a public records request submitted to the Arlington County Police Department and Arlington County Sheriff’s Office.

² An ICE detainer (or ICE hold) is a request by ICE to law enforcement agencies to hold a person for up to 48 hours when ICE believes that the person may be deportable. An ICE detainer is not a warrant and law enforcement do not need to comply with the request.