



**Statement regarding Jilmar Ramos-Gomez Case
From Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young**

Michelle LaJoye-Young
SHERIFF

I join the friends and family of Mr. Jilmar Ramos-Gomez, as well as the residents of Kent County and others, who have expressed extreme concern and even outrage over the treatment of Mr. Ramos-Gomez by ICE officials in December 2018.

As is standard procedure in the Kent County Sheriff's Office, anytime there is a critical incident involving our facility, we launched a full and complete investigation. Because this is an ongoing investigation, some details about this incident remain unconfirmed. However, what is clear is that ICE detained Mr. Ramos-Gomez on the basis of either incomplete or inaccurate information – information that is their duty to collect and verify.

As outlined in my statement issued on January 16, 2019, the role of the Kent County Sheriff's Office in this very unfortunate situation was that of a holding facility. In this capacity, we do not have the ability or authority to verify citizenship or check the immigration status of a detainee, nor to verify the reason for detaining that person. During the time of his incarceration at the Kent County Correctional Facility, Mr. Ramos-Gomez had access to medical and mental health services, as is our standard practice.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office was not the investigating agency in Mr. Ramos-Gomez's case. We did not look into his citizenship status at any point during his detainment, nor do we have the authority to do so. We did not contact ICE regarding his incarceration.

During our review of this incident, it was established that the Grand Rapids Police Department contacted ICE in conjunction with their arrest and investigation into Mr. Ramos-Gomez's case.

My primary goal remains the preservation and enhancement of public safety, due process and the rule of law. For this reason, I notified ICE officials earlier today that the Kent County Sheriff will hold detainees for ICE only after ICE presents to our office an arrest warrant issued by a federal judge or magistrate – otherwise known as a judicial arrest warrant. This change is effective immediately.

The additional requirement of independent judicial review will increase the level of oversight of ICE detention requests in Kent County. Our justice system is built on a balance of authority and oversight. For that reason, we advocate for the requirement that all ICE detention requests be subject to judicial review at a national level.



Michelle LaJoye-Young
SHERIFF

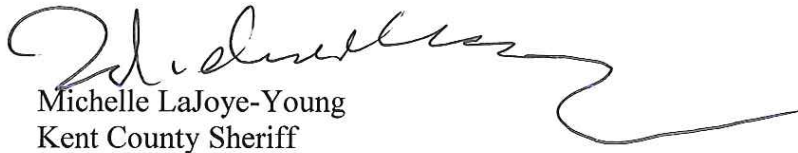
January 18, 2019

Mr. Alan G. Moore - Via Email
Alan.G.Moore@ice.dhs.gov

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Kent County Sheriff's primary goal is preservation and enhancement of public safety, due process, and the rule of law. Effective immediately, due to the recent situation presented by the detention of Jilmar Benigno Ramos-Gomez and the resulting concerns about the internal United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) processes, and due to the transparency and due process protections presented by the judicial review system, the Kent County Sheriff will hold detainees for ICE only if ICE presents to Kent County Sheriff an arrest warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. This letter is not being sent under Article 8 of the Contract.

Sincerely,



Michelle LaJoye-Young
Kent County Sheriff

LH/MY:km

cc: ICE/Detention Compliance & Removals
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Acquisition Management
801 I Street, NW, Suite 930
Washington, DC 20536