

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

September 29, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

David J. Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella,

Yet another shooting has occurred, severely injuring Wilber Rafael Garces Perez. Mr. Garces Perez was shot in the back by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in Austin, Texas, on September 20th. By September 23rd, it was reported that the ICE officer involved was not wearing a body camera, despite being issued one. A second ICE officer at the scene was equipped with and wearing a body camera, but its footage did not capture the shooting.

The shooting of Mr. Garces Perez occurred not three months after the passing of Mr. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo. Like in Mr. Garces Perez's current shooting, there was also a lack of available body camera footage capturing Mr. Salgado Araujo's tragic death.

Following the July 7th shooting of Mr. Salgado Araujo, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a July 12th shooting that body cameras were sent to more than half of all field offices and that the rest would receive their body cameras within the next 60 days, which fell on Friday, September 10th.

Separately, in a July 15th phone conversation with Representative Sylvia Garcia, Secretary Mullin shared that all federal immigration officers would have body-worn cameras within 45-60 days of the call. Those dates fell between August 29th and September 13th. In all scenarios provided by DHS and ICE, all federal agents operating in the field should have a body-worn camera.

For Mr. Salgado Araujo, DHS and ICE claimed an evasion of arrest, weaponization of a vehicle, and that the fatal shooting was a result of self-defense. Not more than a week later, ICE also fatally shot a 25-year-old Colombian national, Johan Sebastian Guerrero. DHS claimed then that Mr. Guerrero also attempted to flee in a vehicle. In Mr. Garces Perez's case, DHS claims a similar story: evasion of arrest and resisting arrest. These cases are becoming all too common, adding enormous fear and outrage in communities across the United States.

Unsubstantiated allegations about individuals who have been shot or even killed continue to be perpetrated by DHS and its component agencies, including ICE. Americans are tired, scared, angry, and hurting. We demand accountability from our federal government, including our federal immigration enforcement agencies. Too many people have been shot or killed by DHS and ICE agents. We need answers, and for our agencies to take responsibility.

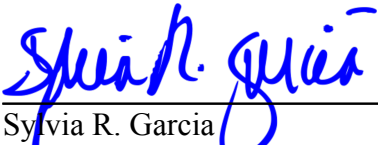
Consistent with congressional oversight responsibilities, we request written answers to the following questions no later than October 14, 2026:

1. Are all active and inactive federal immigration enforcement officers operating on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security DHS or its component agencies (including Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE]) provided with functional body-worn cameras as of September 14th, 2026?
 - a. If not, when were all agents equipped with functional body-worn cameras?
 - b. If not all agents are equipped with functional body-worn cameras, why not?
2. Similarly, are all active and inactive federal immigration enforcement officers operating on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security DHS or its component agencies (including Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE]) trained and provided sufficient guidance on the use of their body-worn cameras as of September 14th, 2026?
 - a. If not, why? How long will it take to train all officers (both active and inactive officers)?
3. Why did the unnamed officer involved in Mr. Wilber Rafael Garces Perez's shooting not have his previously issued body camera?
4. Why did the secondary officer's body camera at the scene not capture footage of the shooting?
 - a. Was the camera on, and if so, did the frame not capture the shooting?
 - b. If the camera was not on, was the officer unable to turn their camera on? Or did they choose not to turn it on?
 - c. If it is discovered that they chose not to turn it on, will there be any administrative or disciplinary action for breach of practice, in accordance with ICE Directive 19010.3: Body Worn Camera (BWC)?
5. Is any footage of the shooting that occurred on September 20, 2026, severely injuring Mr. Garces Perez, available?
 - a. If so, are DHS and ICE opting to retain control over the video footage because it is not "in the best interests of the agency," as dictated by ICE Directive 19010.3: Body Worn Camera (BWC)?
6. Please fully provide in detail what training or guidance officers receive related to their body-worn cameras before being let out into the field.
7. Please clarify what the Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies' current policies and practices are, as related to body-worn cameras.

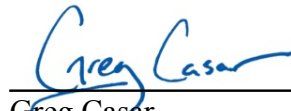
Wilber Rafarel Garces Perez is a hardworking immigrant who entered the country legally and is seeking asylum. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo spent 35 years building homes for Houston families and raising three American sons. Johan Sebastian Guerrero was a loving and devoted father and husband who took care of his family. None of these men deserve the inhumane treatment and unsubstantiated allegations made against them.

We demand these answers and that DHS and ICE take accountability. Require your agents to show proof of their claims. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require additional information, please contact Congresswoman Garcia's Legislative Director, Tammy Pham (tammy.pham@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress