



The GAPA Coalition was born from decades of struggle: progressive churches, grassroots organizations, labor unions, and Black and Brown communities uniting across neighborhoods to win the historic ECPS ordinance. Our original purpose remains clear: to empower our community, District Councilors, and the CCPSA in holding police accountable, increasing transparency, and developing new community-based solutions that reimagine public safety.

In this moment, our communities are far from safe. As a coalition, our member organizations are alarmed by the rise in hate crimes across the city. Most recently, at the office of Alderman Vasquez, the perpetrator left a dead rat and a note with hateful sentiments against the undocumented population. The Latiné community is also being threatened by the increase in ICE presence. Alderperson Fuentes was arrested by ICE agents inside of a Humboldt Park Hospital simply for asking agents a question. Alderman Sigcho-Lopez was met with tear gas at a protest. District Council member, and chief of staff for Alderman Rodriguez, Eianne Bahena was detained while documenting immigration enforcement activity in Little Village.

Heightened ICE raids are attempting to destroy our immigrant communities. Our neighbors, with and without documentation, Latiné and Black, are being targeted and kidnapped across the city. The escalation of violence has resulted in the murder of community member Silverio Villegas Gonzalez in Franklin Park, the use of tear gas, pepper balls, and rubber bullets at protesters—including a pastor—in Broadview, the arrest of 37 people—including children—during a midnight raid of an apartment complex in South Shore, the chokehold of a man in Garfield Park, the arrest of four people outside of a homeless shelter in Bronzeville, the arrest of 12 people at O'Hare, and many, many more. These are not isolated incidents, they are part of a broader pattern of abuse and intimidation.

PBS reported that within a month of ICE presence in Chicago, more than 1,000 immigrants have been detained, including an unknown number of immigrants with legal status and children. This violence is nowhere near the end. ICE raids continue and Donald Trump has threatened the city of Chicago with the deployment of National Guard troops. But despite Trump's administration's efforts to disempower us, our communities remain strong and resilient.

The GAPA coalition stands united in our condemnation of all hate crimes, civil rights violations, and state-sanctioned violence. **To the District Councilors who have not spoken out, we ask: where do you stand? Will you condemn the hate crimes, ICE raids, and threat of the National Guard?**

We call on you to use your unique positions to keep your constituents informed of the threats across the city and ways to keep each other safe through Know Your Rights trainings, family safety plans, and regular updates of ICE activity in your respective districts. We urge you to help compile a list of mutual aid and rapid response networks that community members can access.

We call on you to put pressure on the members of the CCPSA to schedule a hearing and make it clear they stand with the community and to vow to use their power to protect the community. The District Councilors and the CCPSA need to work together to identify and recommend preventative, proactive, community-based solutions to keep our communities safe against ICE, the National Guard and further hate crimes.

Hate has no place in our communities. ICE has no place in our communities. The National Guard has no place in our communities. **Where will you stand?**