October 29, 2026

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chief of Police Jim Coleman
Hillsboro Police Department
jim.coleman@hillsboro-oregon.gov

District Attorney Kevin Barton
Washington County District Attorney's Office
kevin_barton@washingtoncountyor.gov

Dear Chief Coleman and District Attorney Barton,

The ACLU of Oregon and National ACLU ("the ACLU") represent two of your constituents who had their tires slashed with a knife by masked federal officers operating in Hillsboro and the greater Washington County area. *See attached.* The ACLU requests records related to the incident described in the complaint. The ACLU also wishes to share serious concerns with your offices about the investigation practices of the Hillsboro Police Department that show a lack of training on Oregon and constitutional law, as well as a failure to ensure that Oregonians are safe in your communities.

On October 7, 2026, a masked ICE agent got out of an unmarked vehicle, slashed our clients' tire while they sat in the middle of the road and then drove off. Our clients immediately and understandably called 911 for support following this incident. Officer Seth Honl of the Hillsboro Police Department responded to their call. Upon arrival at the scene, Officer Honl separated our clients for questioning. After questioning them separately, Officer Honl told our clients that they should not have been impeding federal officers and that the ICE agent did nothing wrong in puncturing their tire. That is plainly wrong. Moreover, Officer Honl did not collect any evidence of the ICE officer's wrongful conduct until being instructed by a supervisor to return and do so, approximately 20 minutes after leaving the scene. It was only at that point that Officer Honl returned to take photographs of the damage to our clients' vehicle.

The ACLU wants to impress upon law enforcement in Hillsboro, in Washington County, and across the State of Oregon that given the pattern and practices of violent aggression exhibited by the current federal administration against people exercising their First Amendment rights and people who pose no safety threat to our communities, it is critical that law enforcement consider ways to better keep Oregonians safe from this aggressive conduct, including by:

1) **Holding your federal law enforcement peers accountable to the standards set forth in Oregon law, including with respect to masking.** The Oregon legislature has prohibited mask wearing for all law enforcement operating in Oregon, except in narrow circumstances that do not apply to situations as described in our clients' complaint. *See* Oregon Laws 2026, Ch. 66 (effective Mar. 31, 2026). As law enforcement partners and peers to ICE, you are uniquely positioned to hold your federal counterparts accountable to Oregon law.

2) **Ensuring that evidence of ICE wrongdoing is being collected, preserved, and made available to the public.** The number of federal law enforcement abuses is proliferating across Oregon. In addition to the need for evidence for public accountability, it is important that local public resources are used to ensure that the truth of these accounts and interactions is not lost. The current community and future generations both have a right to know the truth and have the opportunity to reconcile the harms being caused rooted in that truth.

3) **Avoiding perpetuating the Trump Administration's false narratives about people who observe ICE in our communities**, including by disputing any claim that observing, gathering information about, and recording law enforcement amounts to interference or impeding. It is critical that Oregon law enforcement is well versed in the public's First Amendment right to observe, gather information about, and record local and federal law enforcement performing their duties in public. *See Askins v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security*, 899 F.3d 1035, 1044 (9th Cir. 2018), *Fordyce v. City of Seattle*, 55 F.3d 436, 439 (9th Cir. 1995). Doing so is not a crime.

4) **Responding to 911 calls from community members from a trauma-informed perspective that centers concern and compassion, not accusation.** Many community members have experienced traumatic interactions with federal agents, the impact of which is made worse by local law enforcement officers who either refuse to respond or respond in a manner that makes community members feel blamed for the aggression they suffered. That does not contribute to community safety. Local law enforcement should be engaging the public in ways that make them feel more safe, not less.

5) **Publicly apologize when your offices or employees get it wrong.** The community is right to have the highest expectations of its law enforcement agencies when it comes to practices that reflect a strong respect for the constitution and the safety of all members of the public. When law enforcement gets it wrong, a public apology can demonstrate that law enforcement agencies share those same high expectations, understand their own errors, and can be trusted to make corrections and avoid similar errors in the future. This is critical for building public trust.

Regarding our records request, the ACLU requests all copies of records maintained in your offices regarding, referring to, or related to the incident described in the attached complaint, including but not limited to 911 call recordings, dispatch records, body-worn camera recordings, police reports, and communications.

Should you wish to discuss the contents of this communication further, please reach out to the undersigned ACLU attorneys. Thank you for giving your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

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