Nate Biscotti

From: Testimony
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 9:40 AM
To: Brenda Warman
Subject: RE: [External] Community Safety Concerns

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Thank you, Brenda. This has been received and will be shared and posted for the record.

Best,
Megan

Megan Cannella | she/her
Supervisor of Committee Services
Senate Transportation Committee, Room 3
Office of Legislative Counsel
Vermont General Assembly

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First time testifying? See Information for Witnesses here.

From: Brenda Warman <bwarman10@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 6:01 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@vtleg.gov>
Subject: [External] Community Safety Concerns

[External]

My name is Brenda Warman. I am a resident of South Burlington who attended the community gathering to protect our neighbors from ICE on Wednesday March 11th. I was there from roughly 10AM until 7:30 P.M and what I witnessed has both traumatized and deeply angered me.

What began as a peaceful gathering of neighbors singing songs, chanting, and exercise their constitutional right to observe, devolved into chaos once SBPD decided to call in both Burlington PD and State Troopers. Around 5:30 P.M., after receiving a warrant on false pretenses, both masked ICE Officers and masked State Troopers in tactical gear proceeded to assault and drag protesters from the front of the house and broke down the door. Why were State troopers aiding ICE agents in this operation? Why were their faces masked, making them indistinguishable from ICE officers? When they returned, they brought out not one man, but three people, including two women. We did not find out until the next day that none of these people were on the arrest warrant, and the man whom ICE had been searching for was

never in the vicinity. They caused a car crash during rush hour traffic a block from a public school where kids were arriving. They could have killed a family or a child on their way to school. All of the ICE agents had unmarked vehicles, indistinguishable from any civilian car you might see on the street. If unidentified men in masks tried to apprehend me, I too would do whatever I could to get away to ensure my own safety. ICE engaged in recklessness and blatant racial profiling as a means to arrest a group of innocent non-white people. Our state and local police enabled this ICE operation and are complicit in these actions.

When people began to gather in the street to prevent the kidnapping of our neighbors, ICE, State Troopers and local PD escalated their violence by assaulting citizens and using both tear gas and flash bangs. These are chemical weapons, deployed on peaceful protesters. I have personally never witnessed anything like that and was terrified that a bomb had gone off. My throat felt irritated for days afterward from the gas. In the chaos, I saw many people crying for medics, as people were pepper sprayed or violently assaulted. I saw one woman who seemed completely catatonic on the ground, apparently the result of a seizure, surrounded by people trying to help. Not one of them was an officer, who were supposedly there to protect us. I saw a small woman be thrown to the ground and arrested while piled on by 3 or 4 officers, some local and some ICE. What I witnessed horrified me to the core and instilled a deep sense of distrust. The statements from news organizations as well as local and state representatives disheartened me further. The local and state police were not put in a "difficult position," the protesters were not violent, ICE wasn't just "doing their job." In fact, they demonstrated they are not even capable of basic law enforcement duties.

In the wake of this violence, and in solidarity with other cities like Mineappolis and LA who have seen a surge in ICE presence, we must call for accountability and justice. Vermont leaders must hold an independent investigation into the events of that day and the decisions that were made and why. Any officer, local or state, that used excessive force must be immediately dismissed. I urge Vermont lawmakers to support H. 895, the Constitutional Accountability Act, to allow citizens to sue federal agents in civil court for violating their constitutional rights. I also urge the support of Senate Bill 208 which will prevent ICE from arresting people at courthouses, schools, hospitals and places of worship. Senate Bill 209 will require any agent or officer to identify themselves and prevent them from wearing masks, and must also be passed in the legislature. Now is the time for Vermont to take a stand and protect its people, all of its people, and ensure that nothing like March 11th ever happens again.

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