

My name is Chrissy Rose, I live in the Old North End, and I was present on Dorset street for most of the day on March 11th, including the end of the day when police pepper sprayed people right in front of me.

We've been told that state and local police are not assisting ICE in their operations, and that their purpose on the scene was to keep the public safe. What I witnessed was the opposite of that. I witnessed police actively helping ICE, and harming the members of the public.

I filmed video of state police holding the door for ICE to drag people out of the house. Those people were not on the warrant. They were kidnapped, and the police held the door. I do not see how we can plausibly call that anything other than assisting ICE agents.

The only people on that scene trying to keep anyone safe were the neighbors who showed up to do so. We were not there to protest. We were there to protect, and we might have succeeded if the police had not been there. I watched a person in the crowd fall to the ground, unable to breathe because they had been choked by a state trooper. Neighbors surrounded this person to shield them and offer medical assistance. State police violently shoved the crowd back into them. I implored the local police officer closest to me to tell the officer to stop, that there was a person on the ground in danger of being trampled. He replied, I can't. I wish I could.

We're being told completely contradictory things. We're being told that the police were on the scene to maintain public safety, but also that they have no authority over ICE. If police help ICE take people without a warrant, that's not Fair and Impartial Policing. If police don't even have enough authority to order an agent not to trample someone, then they have no ability to protect the public even if they intended to. To say that that was their purpose on the scene Wednesday, in that case, is a farce and an insult to the people who were taken and harmed.