



## OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

**CASEY CAGLE**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 18, 2017

Bryan A. Downs  
Wilson, Morton & Downs, LLC  
Two Decatur Town Center  
125 Clairemont Avenue, Suite 420  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Mr. Downs:

Our state and federal laws strictly prohibit the City of Decatur from adopting and using sanctuary policies to harbor criminal illegal immigrants. I will not tolerate local government officials putting the safety of our citizens at risk by disregarding our clear prohibition on sanctuary cities.

The notion that Georgians are safe from crimes committed by criminal illegal aliens is false. As of Friday, October 13, 2017 the Georgia Department of Corrections is housing 1,316 criminals with ICE detainers who have committed felonies in our communities. These serious offenses and violent crimes include: 184 child molestations, 174 cases of trafficking of methamphetamine or cocaine, and 127 murders. All of these convicted criminals will be transferred into federal custody by the Department of Corrections as required by federal and state law.

Without the cooperation of all local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, known criminals will remain on our streets and continue to present a serious threat to our society. It is our obligation to follow Georgia law and proactively pursue these criminal illegal aliens before they can commit additional crimes against Georgians. The City of Decatur has an obligation to do its part.

Attached is a copy of Federal Law, 8 U.S.C. § 1373 - *Communication between government agencies and the Immigration and Naturalization Service*. Upon advice of counsel and information provided to my office, it is my belief that the City of Decatur is in direct violation of this federal law and Georgia law prohibiting Sanctuary Cities.

Specifically, your policy subjects your local police officers to disciplinary action if they communicate and act on an ICE detainer warrant.

*“In particular, the Decatur Police Department shall not arrest, hold...or transport anyone solely on the basis of an immigration detainer or an administrative immigration warrant, including an administrative immigration warrant in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.”*

*“Any Officer determined to have violated this General Order is subject to disciplinary action.”*

At best, the City of Decatur is choosing to promote ambiguous policies that violate the underlying purpose of state law. I ask that you, within 14 days from receipt of this letter, work with your Chief of Police and amend your policy to clearly state that Decatur Police Officers are in no way restricted from communicating and cooperating with federal authorities as required by 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and O.C.G.A. § 36-80-23.

It seems reasonable to me – and I know most Georgians would agree – that all law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia should cooperate to prevent criminal illegal aliens from committing any further incidences of violence against our citizens. Should the City of Decatur fail to adopt a new policy, I will have no choice but to intervene and pursue all available resources to uphold the rule of law.

Sincerely,



Casey Cagle  
Lt. Governor of Georgia

CC: Governor Nathan Deal  
Speaker David Ralston  
Attorney General Chris Carr  
Chairman Shawn Hanley, Immigration Enforcement Review Board  
Mayor Patti Garrett, City of Decatur  
Chief of Police Mike Booker, City of Decatur