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PRESS RELEASE – POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release Concerning I.C.E. Activity in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa over last 24 Hours

Yesterday, the Mason City Police Department began receiving inquiries on whether I.C.E. was in Mason City. No one from I.C.E. had communicated with us prior that they would be in town. Local social media began reporting more and more reports of people being detained and or questioned in Mason City by I.C.E. No local law enforcement agencies (Mason City Police Department, Clear Lake Police Department, Cerro Gordo Sheriff's Department, nor Iowa State Patrol) were consulted with prior or assisted with any I.C.E. activity in Cerro Gordo County yesterday or today.

We have been able to confirm that 6 people (driving 3 vehicles) claiming to be with I.C.E. stopped at the Cerro Gordo Law Enforcement Center yesterday afternoon at 1:30 pm. They asked the sheriff's office employees if they had any inmates there with immigration detainers. At that time, no inmates had immigration detainers. This group then left. They stated that they were going to check with other jails also.

They brought no inmates in. They left with no inmates. There are several social media stories about people being detained locally. We have no confirmation of this, nor any contemporaneous missing reports to indicate a mass detainment yesterday or today.

We did contact one of the Iowa field offices for I.C.E. yesterday. The I.C.E. employees in Mason City yesterday are not affiliated with the Iowa field office(s) for I.C.E. We have requested the Iowa office bring this to someone's attention within their national I.C.E. organization as this has caused a lot of local concern, possibly inflamed by unverified

social media reports. Because no local law enforcement agencies were consulted, we are unable to confirm anything else that did or did not happen with I.C.E. yesterday in Cerro Gordo County, IA.

We understand the political and legal concerns. The four named local LE agencies in Cerro Gordo County have given me permission to issue this joint-agency release. If you are unsure if someone claiming to be law enforcement is legitimate, you can call local law enforcement to respond and help you investigate further.


Mike McKelvey
Police Chief