

From: CASTRO, ALMA G.
Sent: Thu, 20 Aug 2026 14:19:42 +0000
To: VALDEZ, BENJAMIN P.
Cc: GARCIA, MICHAEL J.; FAULKNER, PILAR FH.; ivan cornejo; Allegra Love
Subject: Kidnapping report
Attachments: VIDEO-2026-08-19-15-11-38.mov

I would like to report a kidnapping:

Yesterday at proximity 11:45am Jose Leonardo Mejia was abducted from 2101 cerrillos Rd.

Please see attached footage. Please do something to protect Santa Fe residents.

Alma Castro (She/Them)
Santa Fe City Councilor - District One
(505) 531-7612

From: VALDEZ, BENJAMIN P.
Sent: Thu, 20 Aug 2026 14:54:43 +0000
To: CASTRO, ALMA G.
Cc: GARCIA, MICHAEL J.; FAULKNER, PILAR FH.; ivan cornejo; Allegra Love; MOYA, BRIAN J.
Subject: Re: Kidnapping report

Good morning Councilor Castro,

Thank you for sharing this video with me.

From my review it looks like US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents making an apprehension of an individual. The vehicles in the video and the manner the people are dressed are consistent with information shared on social media and the news of ICE Agents conducting operations in our community. City Leadership convened a meeting I attended where this was discussed, and another discussion was held last night in the Council Chambers where members of the community shared their concerns.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19iUFrQZoQ/>

La Familia: ICE agents make arrests at Santa Fe clinic lot, Santa Fe New Mexican

<https://www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/outrage-grows-after-ice-enforcement-action-outside-santa-fe-health-care-facility/>

Outrage grows after ICE enforcement action outside Santa Fe health care facility, KRQE13

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EWhKyqChE/>

La Yorda De Santa Fe, post by Marisol Ruiz Quinones

If you would like to make a report of a kidnapping, I can make arrangements for an officer to contact you to document your account of this incident.

I must caution you though that if you are intentionally making a report to a law enforcement officer which you know to be false at the time you are making it, it would constitute making a false report. Making an allegation against another person that they violated the criminal code is unlawful.

30-39-1. False report; penalty.

It is unlawful for any person to intentionally make a report to a law enforcement agency or official, which report he knows to be false at the time of making it, alleging a violation by another person of the provisions of the Criminal Code [30-1-1 NMSA 1978]. Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

If you or any of your colleagues have knowledge concerning misconduct of the ICE Agents, please contact their **Office of Professional Responsibility** at <https://www.ice.gov/opr> to file a complaint to have the alleged misconduct investigated.

I am also sharing a link to our Department Directive and the reference to City Council Resolution 1999-6. The full policy is available at https://santafenm.gov/archive_center/document/20506 .

Specifically on Page 3, Section G of the policy defines the roles of ICE and SFPD, stating ICE is solely responsible for immigration enforcement. Furthermore, SFPD operates under the guidelines of Council Resolution 1999-6. The policy also states when SFPD may contact ICE and the process to follow.

HSI and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies are not governed by the SFPD Policy and City Council Resolution 1999-6.

The City Council Resolution declares "no municipal resources will be used to identify or apprehend any non-citizen resident on the **sole basis** of immigration status, unless otherwise lawfully required to do so."

I am asking for your assistance to ensure members of our community that are not US citizens know our city has no involvement in immigration enforcement. We are here to serve **ALL** our community members, regardless of their status. My greatest concern is if they are reluctant to contact police or emergency services for assistance out of fear of being deported or separated. This does not help them nor does it help our community. In addition, I have already seen the reluctance to call police for assistance which allows offenders to further abuse/harm victims of crimes. This is why we continue to conduct Uvisa certifications for victims of qualifying crime to protect them from both harm and from facing removal from the country.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Again, I am happy to continue this conversation to make sure we are doing everything we can to provide the best professional law enforcement services to our community and to be in compliance with the City Resolution 1999-6, our Department Policies, and upholding our Oath of Office as peace officers.

Thank you,

Ben Valdez
Interim Chief of Police
Santa Fe Police Department
Office # 505-955-5040