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March 16, 2026

The Honorable Rodney Scott
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Scott:

I am writing to request that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) open a full and independent investigation into the conduct of Border Patrol Commander-at-Large Greg Bovino, and specifically to examine whether that conduct disqualifies him from receiving federal retirement benefits. The record here is troubling. A federal judge found that Bovino lied under oath about his use of force.¹ He was ordered to appear before that same judge each evening to account for his agents' actions.² And he has been the subject of multiple court orders dealing with racial profiling. These are not allegations, they are documented findings, and they raise a serious question about whether someone with this record should retire with full taxpayer-funded benefits.

Over the past year, Bovino led major immigration enforcement operations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Charlotte, New Orleans, and Minneapolis. In each city, his conduct drew widespread concern from elected officials, federal judges, and the public alike.³ He operated in a high-profile, often theatrical manner, treating these cities and the communities within them as a stage for federal enforcement with few apparent constraints. That is a significant departure from established norms, and it happened under Bovino's command.

The judicial record is particularly concerning. U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis found that Bovino had lied about his own use of force during operations in Chicago, a finding supported by court filings, depositions, and body camera footage. She extended a temporary restraining order against ICE's use of tear gas and pepper balls after concluding that Bovino had misrepresented facts under oath. She also ordered him to personally appear in court each evening at 6 p.m. to brief her on his agents' activities. A judicial rebuke of this nature and scope is not routine. While

¹ Source: [Commander Gregory Bovino, some Border Patrol agents set to leave Minneapolis, sources say - CBS News](#)

² Source: [Judge orders daily meetings with Border Patrol official in Chicago | AP News](#)

³ Source: [Border Patrol chief Gregory Bovino accused of violating restraining order by throwing tear gas in Little Village - CBS Chicago](#)

I appreciate that U.S. Customs and Border Protection is currently looking into reported remarks Bovino allegedly made toward the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota targeting his Orthodox Jewish faith, I am also deeply concerned that, if accurate, speak to serious questions of character and fitness.

What makes this even more urgent for me personally is that El Centro is in my district. Bovino has served as chief of the El Centro Sector since 2020, and the record there is troubling in its own right. Federal data shows that under his leadership, El Centro reported the highest ratio of use-of-force incidents to assaults on agents of any Border Patrol sector in the country, agents used force 3.6 times for every one assault they faced, compared to a 2-to-1 ratio across the Border Patrol as a whole.⁴ Operations he led in California's Central Valley near the end of the Biden administration were later ruled illegal by a federal judge. Since the announcement was made that he would be returning to El Centro, I have already heard directly from constituents who report being racially profiled, pulled over, and pressured to prove their citizenship.⁵ And now, after being removed from Minneapolis following two fatal shootings of U.S. citizens, Bovino just last week returned to El Centro, by all accounts to serve out the remainder of his career until he hits mandatory retirement age. The communities of Imperial County and the Coachella Valley deserve to know what kind of command culture they are living under, and they deserve a full accounting of what that record means for how he leaves federal service.

I am also concerned that we have been here before with DHS misconduct. The Coast Guard Academy sexual assault scandal, known as Operation Fouled Anchor, revealed that senior leadership⁶ had concealed a decade-long pattern of misconduct from Congress, allowed perpetrators to continue serving and in some cases be promoted, and actively worked to keep survivors from speaking to Congress. The House Oversight Committee found that the Coast Guard's failure was not incidental; it was a deliberate institutional choice to protect the agency's reputation at the expense of accountability.⁷ We cannot allow a similar dynamic to take hold here. When commanders who preside over documented misconduct are allowed to walk away with full benefits, it tells every officer below them exactly how much accountability matters.

I respectfully request that CBP take the following steps. First, open a full and independent investigation into whether Bovino's conduct meets the standard for "conduct unbecoming" under applicable federal civil service and law enforcement retirement statutes. Second, examine whether his retirement benefits should be withheld or conditioned pending the findings of that investigation. Third, provide a briefing to relevant Members of Congress on the scope and timeline of the investigation within 60 days of this letter.

Federal law enforcement retirement benefits are funded by the taxpayers and are premised on a career of honorable public service including any enhanced benefits. When the record raises serious questions about whether that standard was met, questions supported by court findings,

⁴ Source: [Greg Bovino's Border Patrol Agents Use Disproportionate Force, Data Shows | Project On Government Oversight](#)

⁵ Source: [Return of Border Patrol boss Bovino has some in El Centro on edge | KPBS Public Media](#)

⁶ Source: [Congressional investigations find former Coast Guard commandant chose to bury report on sexual misconduct at service's academy | Stars and Stripes](#)

⁷ Source: [Oversight Committee Releases Memorandum on Investigation into Misconduct at the U.S. Coast Guard - United States House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform](#)

judicial orders, and documented departures from federal norms, it is Congress's responsibility to ask them..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raul Ruiz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "R".

Cc:

Brian Fish
Acting Assistant Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Office of Professional Responsibility