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Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
18th District, New York

April 4, 2019

Deputy Director Ronald Vitiello
U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Director Vitiello,

I write to inquire about a situation in my congressional district that took place on Wednesday, April 3rd, at Middletown City Hall in Middletown, NY. During the incident, plainclothes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrived at city hall to detain a local resident who was reportedly wanted on an administrative immigration warrant. This incident has caused significant local concern. The ICE officers in question appeared only to be ordinary people but were armed and chased the subject in question through city hall. Local authorities were not informed of the operation before it transpired.

While I understand these officers were performing an action consistent with the mission of your agency, I am extremely concerned in the way these duties were carried out. Not only did ICE agents show up unannounced and in plainclothes, but they reportedly carried guns inside city hall, where innocent bystanders and families watched with confusion and feared for the safety of all involved. Reports suggest that ICE agents also refused to present the administrative warrant to authorities when requested, leading to further speculation regarding the intent of their presence.

These reports are highly disturbing and have caused considerable concern for the Middletown community. I am requesting a detailed explanation of the protocols that govern ICE detainment efforts. If protocols preventing this kind of incident are not already in place, they certainly ought to be.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress