



One Year, No Charges, No Accountability: Latino Leaders Say Meeting with State's Attorney O'Neill Burke Fell Far Short

Fear persists in Latino communities as the Cook County State's Attorney has yet to meet directly with Latino leaders or publicly commit to accountability for crimes by federal agents.

CHICAGO, IL – September 29, 2026 – One year after federal immigration agents killed Silverio Villegas González in Franklin Park, and nearly a year after a Border Patrol agent shot Marimar Martinez five times in Brighton Park, no charges have been brought against the agents responsible. The Illinois Accountability Commission concluded that both shootings were without apparent justification, yet federal agents continue to act with impunity in Cook County.

Last Wednesday, State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke held a general stakeholder session that addressed federal immigration policing while failing to directly address the fears and concerns of the Latino community. More than 100 days after we first requested a direct meeting, the State's Attorney has still not met Latino community leaders directly. The Illinois Latino Agenda and the Latino Leadership Council continue to call for direct and ongoing dialogue between the State's Attorney and Cook County's Latino leaders to keep our communities safe amid the persistent threat from ICE/CBP.

We also call on her to publicly commit to a prompt, transparent review of the Villegas González case once it is referred to her office by the Illinois State Police. A referral that we hope and expect is forthcoming. Latino families deserve to know she is prepared to act swiftly, transparently, and independently.

Latinos represent over 25% of Cook County's residents¹ and the current situation demands that our law enforcement leaders directly and regularly address our concerns for the safety of our community.

"We appreciate that the State's Attorney has begun meeting with constituents, but we need more than a seat at a crowded table. Latino families are living under a persistent and unprecedented threat. We are asking for a direct meeting with Latino leaders, so that she can show us that we are seen, that the process is in motion, that we are not alone, and that the institutions we helped build will defend us and deliver justice," **said Linda X. Tortolero, President and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum and a member of the Illinois Latino Agenda.**

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About the Illinois Latino Agenda: The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition of Latino leaders and community organizations across the Chicago region working to advance the wellbeing, equity, and political power of Illinois's Latino communities. ILA is fiscally sponsored by the Latino Policy Forum.

The Latino Leadership Council (LLC) mission is to empower the Latino community by organizing and increasing the culture of political giving, and to advocate for Latino parity and inclusion in both the public and private sector, government resources, government appointments, nonprofit funding, business opportunities, corporate boards, and executive level positions in publicly traded companies.

1. Population data: 2020–2024 American Community Survey five-year estimates, via Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Cook County Community Data Snapshot (September 2026)