

A federal judge in Los Angeles late Friday issued a sweeping temporary restraining order (TRO) against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), ruling that the agency likely violated constitutional protections through its immigration enforcement [practices in California](#).

In a 53-page order issued Friday, U.S. District Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, a Biden appointee, barred ICE from conducting detentive stops in the Central District of California unless agents have "reasonable suspicion" that a person is in the country unlawfully.

Frimpong's ruling [explicitly prohibits ICE](#) from relying solely on race or ethnicity, speaking Spanish or English with an accent, location, or type of work when forming suspicion, citing the Fourth Amendment.

The order also requires ICE to keep and turn over detailed records of each stop and agents' reasoning for them, develop official guidance for determining "reasonable suspicion," and implement mandatory training for agents.

### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SUES LOS ANGELES OVER SANCTUARY POLICIES THAT 'IMPEDE' ICE OPERATIONS

Frimpong presided over a hearing Thursday where she considered granting the request that will have major implications for immigration enforcement in [California](#), a state that has become a focal point in President Donald Trump's aggressive deportation plans. The judge heard arguments about whether to

grant the TRO against ICE over allegations the agency is violating constitutional rights during its immigration arrests.

Frimpong said during the hearing on Thursday that she was leaning toward granting the TRO Friday.

"I think it's important for the court not to burden otherwise lawful law enforcement activities," the judge said.

The case was initially brought in June as a routine petition from three detainees, but it has ballooned into a weighty lawsuit challenging the way ICE operates.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass praised the federal court's decision to issue a temporary restraining order halting what she described as "unconstitutional and reckless raids conducted under the Trump Administration."

"Today, the Court ruled in favor of the United States Constitution, of American values and decency — this is an important step toward restoring safety, security and defending the rights of all Angelenos," Bass shared in a statement.

Bass characterized the federal actions as aggressive and harmful and reaffirmed Los Angeles' commitment to protecting its residents' rights.

"Los Angeles has been under assault by the Trump Administration as masked men grab people off the street, chase working people through parking lots and

march through children's summer camps. We went to court against the administration because we will never accept these outrageous and un-American acts as normal," she continued.

Immigration rights groups and local governments, including the cities of [Los Angeles](#), Santa Monica, Culver, and West Hollywood, have all intervened in the case and Democrat-led states have filed an amicus brief in support of them.

The plaintiffs alleged in court papers that ICE is "indiscriminately" arresting people with "brown skin" at Home Depots, car washes, farms and more. Authorities made the arrests with no "reasonable suspicion" and sometimes mistakenly apprehended U.S. citizens in the process, all in violation of the Fourth Amendment, attorneys wrote.

The plaintiffs argued the Trump administration gave ICE an unrealistic quota of 3,000 arrests per day, causing officers to feel pressured to blow past legal requirements to achieve those numbers.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is disputing the allegations and denies wrongdoing.

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**Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents clash with protesters in San Francisco July 8. (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement via X)**

U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli responded to the ruling and vehemently opposed the allegations in the lawsuit.

"We strongly disagree with the allegations in the lawsuit and maintain that our agents have never detained individuals without proper legal justification," Essayli wrote in a post on X.

"Our federal agents will continue to enforce the law and abide by the U.S. Constitution."

[Department of Justice](#) attorneys wrote that immigration arrests, of which there have been nearly 3,000 across California since early June, have been carried out legally.

"Their request that immigration authorities be enjoined from relying on certain factors like occupation and location flies in the face of established law requiring immigration officials to consider the totality of the circumstances, including things like occupation and location," the attorneys wrote.

The plaintiffs have also asked the judge to expand visitor access to a short-term detention facility in downtown Los Angeles.

The facility became the site of protests and unrest in early June, leading to authorities temporarily abandoning the building. The plaintiffs allege that detainees' access to lawyers has been hindered while in the facility, in violation of the Fifth Amendment. Frimpong's order reinforces their Fifth Amendment claim, requiring ICE to ensure immediate legal access for detainees. The temporary restraining order will remain in effect pending further litigation.

The White House did not immediately respond to Fox News Digital's request for comment.