

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Sheriff Stanek Statement on U.S. Immigration and Customs Detainers

June 11, 2014 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek has issued the following statement:

Effective Thursday, June 12, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office will no longer honor U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers absent judicial authority.

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office receives approximately 36,000 inmates each year. Of those 36,000 inmates, approximately 1.5 percent have a detainer placed on them by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers is a request for local jails to hold individuals up to 48 hours after their local charges have been satisfied.

Historically, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers were interpreted as "mandatory," requiring jails to honor them. However, recent directives by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that detainers are discretionary and subsequent Federal Court decisions articulating the same, are strong indicators that the legal landscape is changing. Therefore the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office will no longer honor U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers absent judicial authority.

My decision comes after a long, thoughtful, and deliberate process that included meetings and discussions with Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, residents across Hennepin County, local and national elected officials, the Sheriff's Office Community Advisory Board, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and representatives from the many diverse communities of Hennepin County.

My first responsibility as Sheriff of Hennepin County will always be to enforce the law and abide by the Constitution.

Rich Stanek
Hennepin County Sheriff

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