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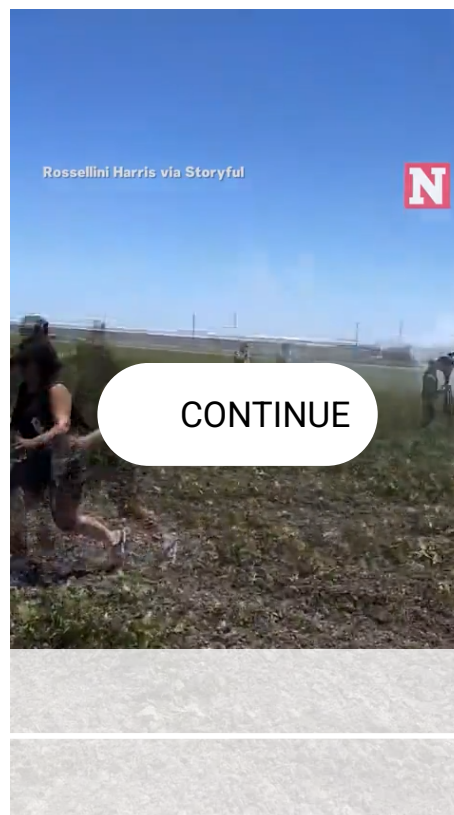
News ICE Immigration California Immigration And Customs Enforcement

News Article ⓘ

Official Who Called on Gangs To ‘Organize’ Against ICE Reacts: ‘Satirical’

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By **Billal Rahman**
Immigration Reporter

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A California city official has responded to backlash after she appeared to call on gangs to defend their neighborhoods from federal immigration agents, saying her comments were satirical.

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) branded Gonzalez's post, which was subsequently taken down, as "despicable."

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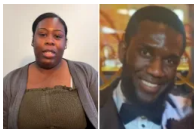
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Responding to the incident at a city council meeting on Tuesday, Gonzalez said: "I just want to take some time to address the short, satirical TikTok video I made recently that drew national headlines and public criticism. To be clear, I created this video in my personal time and on my personal page.

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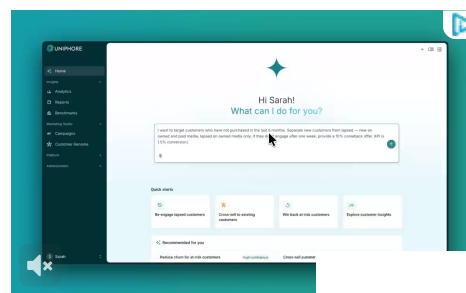
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Cynthia Gonzalez | *City of Cudahy*

"The message was not about violence; It was about regular people...claiming ownership of our streets in a time of great distress and asking others, who I mentioned in my video, in organizing and protesting against the harm and violence being inflicted on our community.

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Frank Petterson | CTPO, I

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"I want to apologize to city staff, members of the council and my community that my video took attention away from the pain our communities are experiencing and brought unnecessary attention to our city."

government forces, prompting President Donald Trump to send in the National Guard.

California has become a key battleground state for immigration enforcement, with tensions running high between federal authorities and local communities, as well as Democratic lawmakers.

What To Know

In her now deleted TikTok video, Gonzalez said: "18th Street, Florencia, where's the leadership at? Because you guys are all about territory.... You guys tag everything up—claiming hood. And now that your hood's being invaded by the biggest gang there is, there ain't a peep out of you.

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"It's everyone else who's not about the gang life that's out there protesting and speaking up.

"We're out there fighting our turf, protecting our turf, protecting our people and, like, where you at?

"Don't be trying to claim no block, no nothing. If you're not showing up right now, trying to help out and organize, I don't want to hear a peep out of you once they're gone."

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What People Are Saying

DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told *Newsweek*: "Vice Mayor Gonzalez's comments are despicable. She called for criminal gangs—including the vicious 18th street gang—to commit violence against our brave ICE law enforcement. This kind of garbage has led to a more than 500 percent increase in assaults against our brave ICE law enforcement officers. Democrats must stop comparing ICE to the Gestapo and calling for violence against our law enforcement."

The City of Cudahy said in a statement: "The comments made by the Vice Mayor reflect her personal views and do not represent the views or official position of the City of Cudahy. The City will not be providing further comment."

What Happens Next

The Los Angeles Police Protective League has called for the resignation of Gonzalez over the social media post.

Update 7/16/25, 7:30 a.m. ET: This article has been updated with additional information.

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