



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

Telephone 512/854-9400

Telefax 512/854-4206

JOSÉ P. GARZA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TRUDY STRASSBURGER
FIRST ASSISTANT

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable David Venturella
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin and Director Venturella,

I write regarding Wilber Rafael Garces Perez, A# 244310425, DOB 10-30-97, who is a material witness in a criminal investigation pending in Travis County, Texas. I respectfully request that Mr. Garcia Perez be allowed to remain in the United States while this investigation is ongoing.

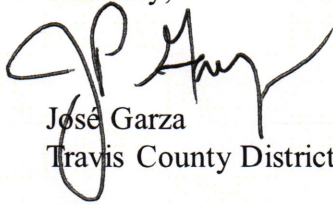
The Travis County District Attorney's Office represents the State of Texas in the prosecution of felony-level offenses that occur in Travis County, Texas. On September 20, 2026, Mr. Garces Perez was shot in the back while driving his vehicle near the 7000 block of West Anderson Lane in Austin, Travis County, Texas. Initial reports indicate that the individual who discharged their firearm at Mr. Garces Perez was a federal agent employed by U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) and that the shooting happened during an attempted traffic stop. As of this writing, it is our understanding that Mr. Garces Perez remains in federal custody and that federal authorities seek to remove Mr. Garces Perez from the United States for alleged violations of U.S. immigration laws.

As you may be aware, local law enforcement authorities have launched a criminal investigation into this incident. While this investigation is ongoing, Mr. Garces Perez must be allowed to readily share information with local law enforcement about what transpired on September 20, 2026, and remain available to cooperate with case agents and prosecutors who are reviewing this incident to determine whether any violations of state criminal laws have occurred. If criminal charges are filed in Travis County in relation to the shooting, the State of Texas expects that Mr. Garces Perez's testimony would be a necessary in any subsequent prosecution. Mr. Garces Perez's ability to participate in the ongoing investigation or any future prosecution related to this incident, however, will be severely hindered if Mr. Garces Perez is removed from the United States.

To ensure a complete, impartial inquiry into the shooting of Mr. Garces Perez, I ask that Mr. Garces Perez be allowed to remain in the United States during the pendency of this criminal investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Garza', written over the printed name.

José Garza
Travis County District Attorney

CC: Sean.M.Hackbarth@ice.dhs.gov
Richard.E.Culpepper@hsi.dhs.gov
Andres.H.Gonzalez@hsi.dhs.gov