



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES UTHMEIER

June 9, 2025

Dr. Gregory Tony
Broward County Sheriff
2601 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale FL 33312

Sheriff Tony:

I write to seek clarity on several problematic remarks you made at a June 3, 2025 Budget Workshop of the Broward County Commission Meeting. In that meeting, you stated that the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) has "other priorities in this community" and that "immigration is not one of them."¹ You went on to say that arresting illegal aliens is "not within our purview, it's not within our responsibility, and I won't participate in it." I would hope your statements were mere political posturing, but if not, your expressed positions would constitute a failure of your statutory obligation to utilize "best efforts to support the enforcement of federal immigration law" under § 908.104(1), Florida Statutes.

Per § 908.104(1), Florida Statutes, "any official responsible for directing or supervising" a state or local law enforcement agency "shall use best efforts to support the enforcement of federal immigration law" when acting within the scope of his or her employment. You are such an official, and therefore must use "best efforts" to work with federal immigration authorities, including United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Your statements to the contrary suggest you misunderstand or intend to flout these requirements under Florida law. Ironically, your office is currently party to *two* 287(g) agreements with ICE—the Warrant Service Officer Model (Sept. 9, 2019) and the Task Force Model (Feb. 26, 2025). Florida's "best efforts" law means what it says—the law isn't satisfied by entering agreements you have no intention of fulfilling. Florida law unambiguously and intentionally requires more.

Illegal aliens are responsible for horrific crimes in Broward County. In March 2025, Carlos Jose Abreau, a 45-year-old illegal alien from the Dominican Republic pled guilty in

¹ WPLG Local 10, *Broward Sheriff Gregory Tony says BSO won't be working with ICE*, YouTube (Jun. 5, 2025), [youtube.com/watch?v=PDiwGwMYHmQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDiwGwMYHmQ).

Broward County for impersonating a U.S. citizen, illegally voting, and unlawfully possessing a firearm.² Abreau had been living under a stolen identity for nearly two decades and is wanted in New Jersey for kidnapping, sexual assault, and endangering a child.³ In December 2024, a Bahamian citizen and 11 Chinese migrants were arrested by authorities in a human smuggling bust after their boat capsized near Fort Lauderdale.⁴ And in the fall of 2024 Rene Jorge Genezio Jr., an illegal alien from Brazil, was arrested for sexually assaulting a Florida resident in Deerfield Beach.⁵ These and other heinous crimes by illegal aliens in Broward County must be stopped. Given these realities, it is unclear to me why “immigration” wouldn’t be one of your priorities.

Of all the funds Broward County devotes to its local agencies, your office receives 55.7%.⁶ I venture to suggest that there is room in your \$765 million budget to abide by state law, cooperate fully with the federal government, and protect Florida citizens from illegal aliens. Broward County citizens deserve to be safe from crime, especially crime that is preventable through proactive enforcement of immigration law. Florida law and policy prioritize removing illegal aliens from our communities.

So must you.

I request that you immediately clarify your remarks to affirm that your policy and intention is to fulfill your obligations under § 908.104(1), Florida Statutes.

My office will use every tool available to ensure local officials obey Florida law and protect public safety. Penalties for failure to adhere to the obligations set forth in § 908.104(1), Florida Statutes, include declaratory and injunctive relief, being held in contempt, or removal from office by the Governor pursuant to § 908.107, Florida Statutes.

Sincerely,



James Uthmeier
Attorney General

Cc: Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor

² Press Release, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida, *Broward Man Pleads Guilty to Impersonating U.S. Citizen to Vote in Federal Election* (Mar. 17, 2025), justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/broward-man-pleads-guilty-impersonating-us-citizen-vote-federal-election.

³ Press Release, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida, *Illegal Alien Indicted on Voter Fraud and Gun Charges* (Feb. 3, 2025), justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/illegal-alien-indicted-voter-fraud-and-gun-charges.

⁴ Local News, *More than 10 arrested after human smuggling bust in Fort Lauderdale*, Local 10, Dec. 29, 2024, local10.com/news/local/2024/12/29/more-than-10-arrested-after-human-smuggling-bust-in-fort-lauderdale.

⁵ Jason Hopkins, Terrified Woman Woke Up To Illegal Migrant Sexually Assaulting Her In Friend’s Car, Authorities Allege, Daily Caller, Sep. 5, 2024, dailycaller.com/2024/09/05/brazilian-fingers-florida-woman-while-sleeping.

⁶ Carlton Gillespie, *Despite controversy Broward Sheriff’s Office sees \$84 million budget increase*, WLRN, Sep. 18, 2024, wlrn.org/law-justice/2024-09-18/broward-sheriffs-budget-helicopters