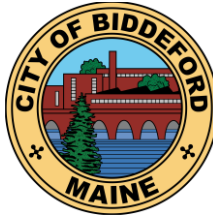


MAYOR
LIAM LAFOUNTAIN



CITY OF BIDDEFORD
MAINE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 17, 2026

"Seeking Justice in Biddeford: Oversight of ICE's Use of Force in the Death of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero"

Ranking Member Thompson, Representative Clark, Representative Pingree, and Members of Congress, thank you for coming to Biddeford.

My name is Liam LaFountain, and I have the privilege of serving as Mayor of Biddeford.

Exactly one week after Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero was killed, I met Johan's partner, Karolina, and Johan's sister, Daniela, at the corner of Hill and Pool Streets where Johan was killed.

They showed me a photograph from our city's newest playground at our Community Center, where Johan was sitting on a swing with his three-year-old daughter, Dulce.

What struck me was how familiar it looked: a father with his daughter, a family making memories in the city they called home. And that joy has been taken from them forever.

I want Congress to know his name: Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero.

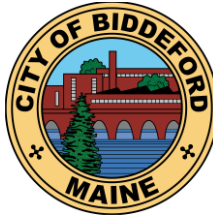
He came to Biddeford to build a life. He worked multiple jobs and was raising his daughter here. He was one of us.

On July 13, a federal immigration enforcement operation came into Biddeford, and a federal officer shot and killed Johan. Federal officials have acknowledged that Johan was not the person agents were looking for and that the agents were not wearing body cameras.

The next day, after Senator Susan Collins urged DHS to halt non-urgent vehicle stops, DHS announced a nationwide pause. It lasted less than 24 hours. Now, funding Congress provided for body cameras may instead be spent on electric-shock gloves. If Congress cannot hold ICE accountable, who can?

Federal agents left the scene. We remained. That is the part I need Congress to understand.

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A federal force came into my city, exercised one of the most extraordinary powers the government possesses — the use of deadly force — and left the consequences for Johan's family and our small community to carry.

An arrest can be challenged. A removal order can be reviewed. A death, however, cannot be reversed — not by Congress, not by a court, not by this Committee. That is why the safeguards around deadly force should be the strongest we have. And yet in Biddeford on the morning of July 13, they were the weakest.

Biddeford is a city of 23,000 people. We were left to absorb the aftermath of that federal law-enforcement operation without federal support.

Our police, fire, public works, schools, and local organizations have been stretched ever since. We secured the aftermath of a scene we were not permitted to investigate, responded to misinformation, and protected people's right to gather, mourn, and protest peacefully. We stood up mental-health, crisis support, and food services. All without any additional support.

But what happened in Biddeford was not an isolated tragedy. From 2015 to 2025, at least nine people were killed in shootings by ICE agents during vehicle stops. Since March 2025, federal immigration agents have shot and killed at least five people. Johan was the second person killed during an ICE vehicle stop in a single week, and in both cases, the person killed was not the target of the enforcement action.

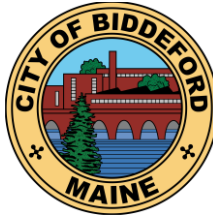
So, I ask Congress: what is the threshold? If American citizens can be killed, if people who were not even the targets of enforcement can be killed, and if that is still not enough to stop and examine these tactics and this agency, what is?

I have spent the last month listening to Biddeford residents.

They have different views about immigration. But I have heard the same thing again and again: What happened to Johan was wrong, and it should not have happened in our city.

At the same time, a part of my city has retreated from public life entirely. Immigrant residents, including people with legal status and pending asylum cases, are afraid to go about their daily lives. That fear affects public safety across Biddeford.

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Federal enforcement actions do not end when federal agents leave. Since July 13, no federal response mechanism has existed to help Biddeford address the fear, trauma, misinformation, vandalism, and strain on local services that followed. The authority was federal. The burden has been ours to carry.

I know the limits of my office. Congress writes immigration law. The Biddeford City Council does not. But when the laws you write and the budgets you approve bring federal power into our city, adequate safeguards and accountability must come with it.

So, I ask Congress for three things.

First, justice for Johan and his family. Karolina asked me to bring that request directly to you. Justice for the life that was taken, for the family left behind, and for those responsible to be held accountable.

Second, give us the truth about what happened on July 13. Tell us who fired the shots, how that agent was vetted, trained, and supervised, and what standards governed the operation. And give Maine law enforcement everything they need to conduct a full and independent investigation.

Third, require of federal agents what we require of our own local officers: humane treatment, body cameras, visible identification, clear use-of-force standards, no masks, and public accountability when deadly force is used. If our police department, operating on less than ten million dollars a year, can meet those standards, the standards for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with a multibillion-dollar budget, cannot be any lower.

Congress cannot continue expanding this power without strengthening what restrains it, because the conditions that produced July 13 still exist today, in my city and in yours.

Thank you.