

**MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR & CABINET**  
**State Board of Immigration Enforcement**  
February 17, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION**

**OPENING REMARKS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

1. Appointment—Executive Director, State Board of Immigration Enforcement

**BUSINESS**

1. Presentation—Florida's Efforts to Combat Illegal Immigration
2. Delegations—Delegations of Authority to the Executive Director
3. Resolution—Rulemaking for Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program
4. Resolution—Data Collection & Reporting Requirements

# **ATTACHMENT 1**



# State Law Enforcement Response to Illegal Immigration

# Participating Agencies





# Operation Lone Star

At the request of the Governor of Texas, Florida State Law Enforcement partnered with the Texas Department of Public Safety in Operation Lone Star.

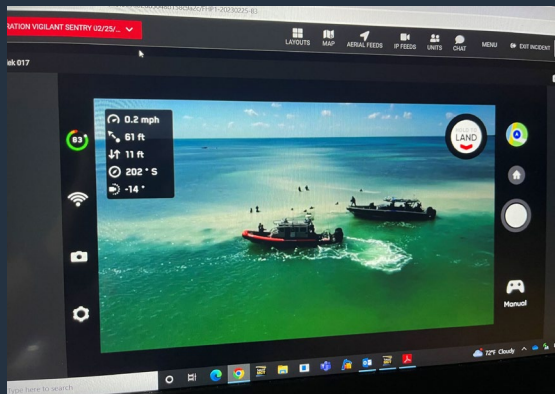
As early as 2022, Florida State Law Enforcement personnel deployed to multiple locations throughout Texas to include Del Rio/Eagle Pass, Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Brownsville, and Weslaco with the mission to secure our Nations border.



# Operation Vigilant Sentry

State Law Enforcement agencies deployed to the Florida Keys and along Florida's East coast throughout multiple waves performing numerous interdiction and humanitarian operations.

These efforts were at the direction of Governor Desantis' Executive Order 23-03 "Emergency Management – Illegal Migration" and in response to surging numbers of illegal immigrants from Cuba, Haiti and other foreign locations.





# Border Integrity Trafficking Enforcement

In support of Governor DeSantis' Executive Order, FHP in conjunction with Federal, State and local partners, initiated week-long Criminal Interdiction operations focused on combatting narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, and human smuggling.

Since 2022, approximately 20 "BITE" operations have been executed by State Law Enforcement partners.



# Operation Lone Star: Mission Highlight

*“In response to the ongoing surge of illegal border crossings, with the accompanying threats to private property and to the safety of our citizens, Governor Abbott has declared a disaster and Governor Ducey has declared an emergency”*

**244,345** Immigrant Encounters **7,464** Immigrant Arrests

Numerous South American and Eastern Hemisphere countries were identified as high-frequency points of origin; however, immigrants from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico were identified as the most frequently encountered.

Over **4,100** state sworn and non-sworn personnel supported this operation.





# Operation Vigilant Sentry: Mission Highlight

In support of Executive Order 23-03 in January 2023, state law enforcement agencies responded throughout the Florida Keys, Dry Tortugas, and southeast Florida:

116 Immigrant landings 2,740 Immigrant encounters

Encountered countries of origin: Bahamas, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom.

Over 1,200 state sworn and non-sworn personnel supported this operation.



# Operation BITE: Mission Highlight

Since 2022, approximately 20 BITE operations have occurred statewide resulting in the seizure/recovery of:

29 pounds of cocaine    8 pounds of fentanyl    2 pounds of heroin

314 pounds of marijuana    43 pounds of methamphetamine

40 vehicles seized    15 stolen vehicles recovered    49 firearms seized    \$1,025,168 USD

93 UDAs were encountered, which resulted in 47 criminal charges.



# 2024 ICE Statistics

## FLORIDA *MUST* LEAD ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

IN 2024, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) RELEASED 315 CRIMINAL ALIENS INTO FLORIDA AFTER THEIR ICE DETAINERS EXPIRED.

**94%** OF THE CRIMINAL ALIENS RELEASED INTO OUR STATE HAD ONE OR MORE VIOLENT CRIMES IN THEIR CRIMINAL HISTORY

14 MURDERERS, 86 KIDNAPPERS, 50 ROBBERS AND 11 STALKERS ARE AMONG THOSE RELEASED INTO OUR COMMUNITIES.

**12%** OF THE CRIMINAL ALIENS RELEASED ARE SEXUAL PREDATORS OR HAD COMMITTED SEXUAL ASSAULT

35 OF THOSE ALIENS ARE CONVICTED OF SEXUAL CRIMES ON CHILDREN. THREE ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.

**29%** OF THE CRIMINAL ALIENS RELEASED ARE CONVICTED DRUG OFFENDERS

20 OF THOSE ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

**3%** OF THE CRIMINAL ALIENS RELEASED WERE FEDERALLY CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY TO THE U.S.

## BY THE NUMBERS

22

HOMICIDE CHARGES

85

SEX OFFENSE CHARGES

27

TRAFFICKING CHARGES

350

FEDERAL CHARGES

144

WEAPONS CHARGES

217

DRUG CHARGES

47

ROBBERY CHARGES

48

VIOLENCE TO LEO CHARGES

112

DV CHARGES

139

PROPERTY CHARGES

ONLY ONE OF THE ALIENS RELEASED HAD NO CRIMINAL RECORD AT ALL.





# New Era of Immigration Enforcement

*Florida is entering a new era of immigration enforcement under the leadership of the Governor, Cabinet, and Legislature, with the support of President Donald J. Trump.*

Increased state enforcement capabilities and collaboration with federal agencies.

Implementation of stricter laws via recently signed Florida legislation to address illegal immigration.

**State Board of Immigration Enforcement**

**State Board of Immigration Enforcement Council**

**Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program**



# STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS SINCE JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATIONS WITH OUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS TO ASSIST IN THE APPREHENSION OF ILLEGAL ALIENS.

**83 ALIENS CAUGHT AND PROCESSED**

**5 OF THE ILLEGALS RE-ENTERED THE U.S. MULTIPLE TIMES AFTER BEING DEPORTED OR REMOVED.**

**5 CONFIRMED GANG AFFILIATION**

**TREN DE ARAGUA** - A VENEZUELAN PRISON GANG DESIGNATED AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BY THE U.S.

**MS-13** - ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS AND VIOLENT STREET GANGS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

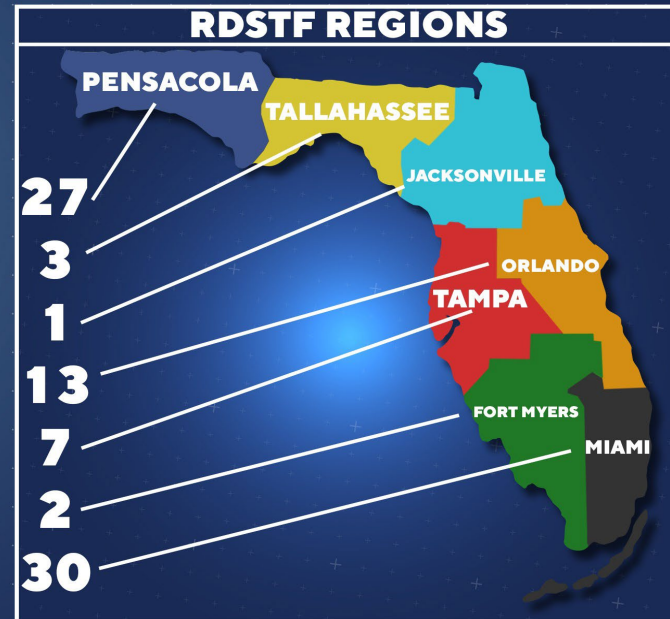
## SNAPSHOT OF THEIR CRIMINAL RECORDS:

- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON
- DRUG TRAFFICKING
- SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR
- ARMED ROBBERY
- CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS BY AN ILLEGAL ALIEN
- HIT & RUN
- POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
- IMPERSONATING ICE AGENT
- SALE OF COCAINE AND AMPHETAMINES
- MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

## WHERE THEY ARE FROM:

BRAZIL	3	JAMAICA	11
COLOMBIA	3	MEXICO	22
CUBA	1	NICARAGUA	1
EL SALVADOR	1	VENEZUELA	11
GUATEMALA	3	PARAGUAY	1
HONDURAS	7	UNKNOWN	19
JAMAICA	3		

## RDSTF REGIONS



# Highway Patrol Updates





# Department of Law Enforcement Updates



# Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement Updates



# Financial Services Law Enforcement Updates





# Agriculture Law Enforcement Updates



# **ATTACHMENT 2**

## **Delegation of Authority to Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement**

- (1) In accordance with section 20.05(1)(b), F.S., the Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby authorized to perform or exercise the following statutory powers and duties of the Board:
  - (a) Supervise, direct, coordinate, and administer the day-to-day duties and functions of the Board in accordance with chapter 908, F.S.
  - (b) Serve as a resource to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
  - (c) Coordinate with the Federal Government in matters related to immigration.
  - (d) Coordinate with and provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of federal immigration laws and other matters related to the enforcement of federal immigration laws, and monitor local government compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
- (2) In addition to the resources provided by specific appropriation or general law, the Executive Director is authorized to enter into a memorandum of understanding to receive personnel resources and/or administrative support from the Department of Law Enforcement to support the functions and duties of the Board.
- (3) In addition to the authorities in (2), the Executive Director is authorized to enter into memorandums of understanding with individual state law enforcement agencies to support the functions and duties of the Board.
- (4) A brief summary of the final disposition of the following actions taken by the Executive Director as authorized by this rule shall be included in the quarterly report submitted to the Board.
  - (a) Unless prescribed by law, negotiate, enter into and execute purchases, contracts, leases, lease-purchases, licenses and agreements relating to real, personal and mixed property, services, commodities and capital outlay items with governmental agencies and persons as defined in section 1.01(3), F.S., and carry out on a day-to-day basis, the operations of the Board. The foregoing authority shall be within current appropriations and shall be in accordance with pertinent statutes and rules of the Department of Management Services and the Comptroller. The Executive Director shall report all contracts, leases, lease-purchases, licenses, agreements and purchases involving the expenditure of more than \$100,000 to the Board on a quarterly basis.
  - (b) Unless prescribed by law, contract for consultant and professional services up to \$100,000. However, selection of consultant and professional services, other than sole source, shall be by procedures in the Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act or other competitive processes.
  - (c) Designate Board officials as custodians or subcustodians of records and property, as agents for service of process, as representatives to organizations in which the Board is a member or officer, and as official liaison with agencies of this State, other states, the Federal Government and the public.
  - (d) Serve as the head of the agency for the purposes of authorizing and paying membership dues or travel expenses and per diem under sections 216.345 or 112.061, F.S. respectively. Membership dues shall be paid only when the membership serves a predominantly public purpose and is essential to the effective discharge of the public duties of the Board or one or more of its personnel.
  - (e) Designate Board officials as custodians or subcustodians of records and property, as agents for service of process, as representatives to organizations in which the Board is a member or officer, and as official liaison with agencies of this State, other states, the Federal Government and the public.

- (f) Accept donations of property, real, personal or mixed, grants of money from any governmental unit, public agency, institution or person to carry out the objectives, and perform the duties of the Board pursuant to section 908, F.S., and other pertinent statutes; provided, however, that this authority shall not extend to situations where accepting or agreeing to accept a donation or grant will have a substantial, adverse impact upon other state agencies; provided further that donations shall be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.
  - (g) Compromise and settle, in the best interest of the Board, subject to section 45.062, F.S., all claims, actions, causes of action and legal proceedings, whether sounding in tort or contract, that are brought against the Board or any of its employees acting within the scope of their employment. Such compromises and settlements shall be limited to cases where the total amount paid is less than \$100,000.00, and shall be reported to the Board on at least a quarterly basis.
  - (h) Act on behalf of the agency in carrying out the provisions of chapter 120, F.S., provided, however, the Board shall approve all Board administrative rules and reserve the prerogative to act as hearing officer in section 120.57, F.S., proceedings involving great public interest or other public agencies. Examples include the following:
    - 1. To initiate rulemaking by publishing a notice of intended action. The power to determine whether proposed rules should be approved for the filing of a notice of intended action and final adoption is hereby reserved to the Board.
    - 2. To explain in writing why a rule development workshop is unnecessary.
    - 3. To provide methods for making available a description of the agency's organization and general course of operation pursuant to section 120.54(5)(b)5., F.S.
    - 4. To issue an immediate final order pursuant to section 120.569(2)(n), F.S., that states the particular facts supporting a finding that there is an immediate danger to the public health, property, or welfare.
    - 5. To issue a written statement pursuant to section 120.57(3)(c), F.S., explaining why a bid solicitation process or contract award process must be continued without delay due to an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.
    - 6. Pursuant to section 120.63(1)(a), F.S., to apply on behalf of the Board and certify to the Administration Commission that a proceeding required by chapter 120, F.S., conflicts with a provision of federal law or rule.
    - 7. To prepare, certify, and file the rule review report mandated by section 120.74(2), F.S., with the presiding officers and affected standing committees of the Florida Legislature.
  - (i) Except as provided herein, the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director shall:
    - 1. Exercise the authority of agency head under section 908 and chapter 110, F.S., State Personnel Rules and rules of the Board, taking final agency action in all personnel matters, including discipline, involving Board employees.
    - 2. Exercise the authority of agency head regarding transfer of appropriations under section 216.292, F.S.
    - 3. Exercise authority in regard to the addition, deletion or transfer of positions within budget entities pursuant to section 216.262, F.S., and other pertinent laws.
- (5) The Executive Director shall keep each member of the Board advised of major policy issues arising under the Board's jurisdiction, including interactions enforcing the immigration laws outlined in section 908, F.S.



# **ATTACHMENT 3**

# State of Florida

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, President Donald J. Trump, in Executive Order 14159, titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” ordered the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with state and local law enforcement agencies across the United States to ensure their assistance with the protection of the American people; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the past several years, Florida has stood strong to defend the State of Florida against the harmful impacts of the Biden Administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders from illegal aliens, drug trafficking, and violent crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the State of Florida passed SB 2C creating the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, which was subsequently signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on February 13, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida stands ready to assist President Donald J. Trump and his Administration in defending and protecting the United States and the people of this state against illegal immigration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor and Cabinet, comprised of the Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture, stand unified in supporting these efforts as the inaugural members of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 908, Florida Statutes, the Board is directed to appoint an Executive Director to assist in the implementation of the duties outlined in law; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Immigration Enforcement has been authorized by statute to commence emergency rulemaking to implement the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program created in Section 908, F.S.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET, SITTING AS THE STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, as authorized by Section 908.1031, Florida Statutes, do hereby direct the following as the chief immigration enforcement officer of the state:

1. As authorized in Section 28 of Senate Bill 2C, signed into law on February 13, 2025, the Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, on behalf of the Board, is authorized to commence the emergency rulemaking process authorized by Chapter 120, F.S.

2. The Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, in his or her capacity as provided in statute, delegation, and by Board action shall immediately commence emergency rulemaking to implement Section 908.1033(4)(a), F.S.
  - a. In drafting these rules, the Executive Director shall, at a minimum, consider the recommendations of the State Immigration Enforcement Council regarding funding criteria.
  - b. In addition, the rules shall also outline a process to act on grant applications in bulk, as part of a consent calendar, and by delegation up to the amount set in Section 908.1033(7), F.S.
3. To ensure that there is no delay in providing financial support to local law enforcement agencies, the State Immigration Enforcement Council is encouraged to establish itself and commence its activities immediately to ensure no delay in enforcement occurs.
4. This Resolution is effective immediately.

WHEREFORE, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida, sitting as the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the County of Okaloosa on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

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**RON DESANTIS**  
**GOVERNOR**

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**JAMES UTHMEIER**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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**WILTON SIMPSON**  
**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**

# **ATTACHMENT 4**



# State of Florida

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, President Donald J. Trump, in Executive Order 14159, titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” ordered the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with state and local law enforcement agencies across the United States to ensure their assistance with the protection of the American people; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the past several years, Florida has stood strong to defend the State of Florida against the harmful impacts of the Biden Administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders from illegal aliens, drug trafficking, and violent crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the State of Florida passed SB 2C creating the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, which was subsequently signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on February 13, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida stands ready to assist President Donald J. Trump and his Administration in defending and protecting the United States and the people of this state against illegal immigration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor and Cabinet, comprised of the Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture, stand unified in supporting these efforts as the inaugural members of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 908, Florida Statutes, the Board is directed to appoint an Executive Director to assist in the implementation of the duties outlined in law; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Immigration Enforcement has been granted the authority to collect data related to state and local law enforcement agency operations with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and to provide recommendations to improve the state’s cooperation and coordination with the Federal Government in the enforcement of federal immigration laws within this state; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Immigration Enforcement has been directed to complete an inventory of bed vacancies in state and county correctional and detention facilities which can be sublet to ICE; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET, SITTING AS THE STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**, as authorized by Section 908.1031, Florida Statutes, do hereby direct the following as the chief immigration enforcement officer of the state:

1. That the Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, in his or her capacity as provided in statute, delegation, and by Board action shall collect data and offer recommendations related to Florida's support operations with ICE, consistent with the relevant provisions in Section 908, F.S.
  - a. To ensure the timely completion of this information, the Executive Director is hereby directed to coordinate with the State Immigration Enforcement Council to receive recommendations and data to support the report.
  - b. That this information should be provided on a quarterly basis to ensure consistent improvement in reporting occurs prior to the annual deadline prescribed in Florida Statute.
2. That the Executive Director of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, in his or her capacity as provided in statute, delegation, and by Board action immediately commence the collection of data related to the number of vacant beds available in state correctional institutions and facilities and county detention facilities which can be sublet to ICE for use as detention beds.
3. In accordance with Section 908.1032(4)(h), F.S. the State Board of Immigration Enforcement hereby unanimously authorizes the State Immigration Enforcement Council to assist in the collection of data from law enforcement agencies as required under s. 908.1031(3)(e), F.S.
4. This Resolution is effective immediately.

WHEREFORE, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida, sitting as the State Board of Immigration Enforcement have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the County of Okaloosa on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

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**RON DESANTIS**  
**GOVERNOR**

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**JAMES UTHMEIER**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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**WILTON SIMPSON**  
**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**