

Criminal Alien Program Recognized by U.S. Congressman Sessions

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions visited the Irving Police Department on May 29 to recognize the City of Irving for its cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through Irving's Criminal Alien Program.

The Police Department initiated an arrangement with ICE in September in which an ICE agent would visit the Irving Jail up to five times per week to determine the residency status of prisoners. This resulted in an average of 40 to 50 illegal alien detentions in a two-week period.

A new process with the Detention and Removal Division of ICE was implemented in April after ICE indicated that their agents would no longer be available for daily jail visits. Residency status is now reviewed over the phone by the Detention and Removal Division. ICE is now able to determine residency status 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which has increased the number of illegal aliens identified by nearly three times the amount identified during the average week under the previous method.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Chief Larry Boyd and the City of Irving for their successful implementation of this program," said Sessions. "This new method ensures that law-abiding residents are safe through the identification and deportation of these illegal criminals. It's time we focus our resources on these criminals and deal with them on a federal level."

Mayor Herbert Gears added, "Irving is a model community for other cities, and as we utilize the programs offered by our federal government, we will continue making strides toward maintaining the safety of our residents. Together, we are getting results."