

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



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STATEMENT OF LAW DIRECTOR WALLY DIETZ

October 24, 2024

Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti's recent statements implying that Metro was involved in a plan by U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE) to release detainees into Tennessee leave a false impression. The records released by the Attorney General demonstrate clearly that Metro was simply asking basic due diligence questions about what to expect in order to protect Nashvillians and to be prepared for a possible significant increase in our population of people without homes.

Most importantly, General Skrmetti conveniently leaves out the fact that the Governor's office was the key Tennessee government office involved in these negotiations. He should have included the Governor's office in his statement that records revealed coordination "between ICE, Nashville City officials, and Tennessee immigration non-profit to arrange for the mass release of detainees into Tennessee". By omitting the Governor from the discussion, it raises the question whether the Attorney is playing politics with a volatile situation as voters are going to the polls. General Skrmetti is single-handedly besmirching a decades long tradition of nonpartisan Attorneys General in Tennessee.

Metro, and the Governor's office, were simply trying to prepare in the event the release of a large number of detainees in Tennessee actually occurred, which did not happen. Anything short of that would have been a dereliction of duty.

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