



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

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DISTRICT 16

Counties:

Part Benton

COMMITTEES:

Vice Chairperson,

Judiciary

State Agencies and Governmental Affairs

Joint Committee on Public Retirement and

Social Security Programs

1st Alternate,

Arkansas Legislative Council

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Tim Griffin
Office of the Attorney General
323 Center Street
Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Attorney General Griffin:

On June 17, 2025, the Fayetteville Police Department (FDP) received a request for assistance related to a traffic stop. When the Fayetteville Police sergeant arrived, he observed Arkansas Highway Police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers on the scene. It is not clear at this time what events transpired at the scene.

Shortly thereafter, Fayetteville Mayor Molly Rawn issued a press release from the city, stating, in part, that FPD does not participate in civil immigration enforcement actions. I want to reaffirm clearly: The City of Fayetteville does not assist ICE in carrying out its agenda. Our police department's role is to keep our community safe, not to act as agents of immigration enforcement."

The statement by Mayor Rawn clearly violates Arkansas Code Ann. § 14-1-103 which prohibits municipalities from adopting sanctuary policies – whether formal or informal.

Please consider this letter a request for an Attorney General's opinion about the legality of this sanctuary policy pursuant to Arkansas Code Ann. § 14-1-103(c)(1), as well as a request under § 14-1-103(d) for a review of any other current Fayetteville policies that may be in violation of this law which would make Fayetteville disqualified from receiving discretionary money provided through funds or grants administered by the State.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendon R. Underwood".

Kendon R. Underwood
State Representative
District 16

Enclosure:

cc: Chief Jeff Holmes, Division Head, Arkansas Highway Police