

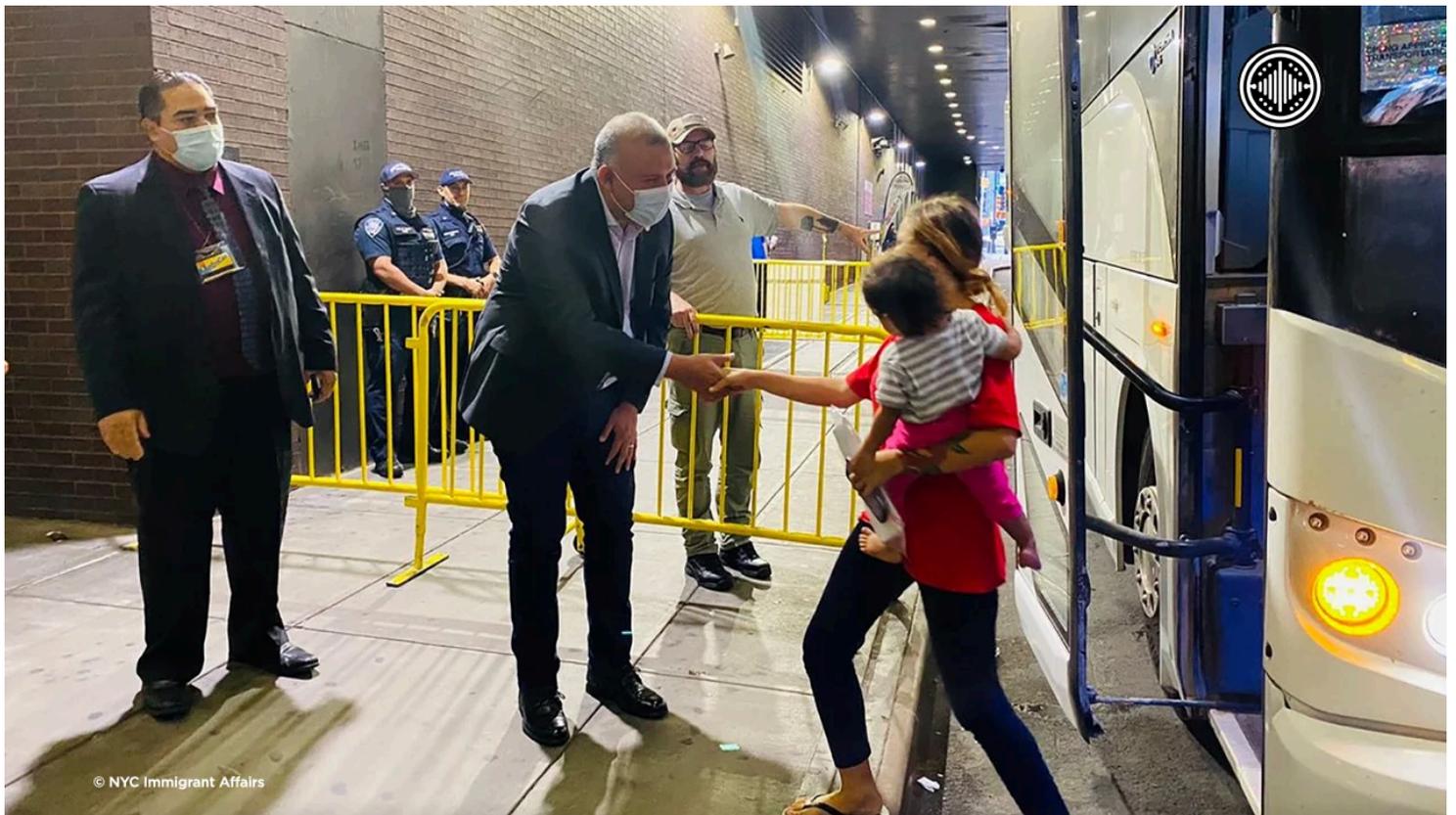
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Justice Department Sues New York City Over Sanctuary Laws Protecting Illegal Immigrants

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The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed a federal lawsuit against New York City, challenging its sanctuary city laws that the department argues hinder federal immigration enforcement. The suit marks a significant escalation in tensions between the federal government and local jurisdictions that have adopted policies aimed at limiting cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Filed in federal court, the lawsuit targets several city ordinances that restrict the New York Police Department (NYPD) and other city agencies from sharing information with ICE or honoring detainer requests without a judicial warrant. Federal officials claim these policies obstruct lawful efforts to apprehend and remove individuals who are unlawfully present in the country, including those with criminal records.

In a statement, the DOJ said New York's laws "endanger public safety by preventing federal authorities from accessing information and individuals they are lawfully entitled to." The complaint specifically highlights multiple cases where individuals previously released from local custody, under the city's sanctuary policies, later committed serious offenses, including violent crimes.

Supporters of the lawsuit argue that local non-cooperation with federal immigration enforcement not only compromises public safety but also violates the Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which affirms the primacy of federal law over conflicting local or state legislation.

New York City officials have pushed back, defending their policies as essential to building trust within immigrant communities. City leaders argue that cooperation with ICE would discourage undocumented residents from reporting crimes or cooperating with police, undermining broader public safety objectives.

The city's law department issued a statement calling the lawsuit "a politically motivated attack," asserting that local laws are in full compliance with constitutional protections and due process rights.

This is not the first legal clash over sanctuary policies. Similar lawsuits have been filed in recent years in California and other jurisdictions. While federal courts have offered mixed rulings, the Supreme Court has yet to weigh in decisively on the extent of local authority in immigration enforcement.

As the case proceeds, it could set a legal precedent affecting hundreds of jurisdictions across the United States that have adopted sanctuary policies. The DOJ's lawsuit underscores a renewed federal push to dismantle legal protections that shield undocumented immigrants from deportation, a move consistent with the administration's broader emphasis on law enforcement and border control.