

September 2, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Sheriff Kevin H. Bean
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office
2351 Morganton Boulevard SW
Lenoir, NC 28645
KBean@caldwellcountync.org

RE: Public Records Act Request – July 26, 2026 Wilson Creek Operation

Dear Sheriff Bean,

We write on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina (ACLU-NC), a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to defending and preserving the constitutional rights of all North Carolinians, to request public records concerning your office's involvement in the July 26, 2026 immigration enforcement operation at Wilson Creek in Caldwell County.

We make this request under the North Carolina Public Records Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 *et seq.* This act must “be liberally construed to ensure that governmental records be open and made available to the public, subject only to a few limited exceptions.” *DTH Media Corp. v. Folt*, 374 N.C. 292, 300, 841 S.E.2d 251, 257–58, (2020). Public officials must furnish public records in response to a request “as promptly as possible[.]” N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(a).

Substance of the Request. On July 26, 2026, personnel from your office were present during an immigration enforcement operation at Wilson Creek that resulted in the arrests of thirteen individuals by federal immigration agents.

We request that you produce the following public records concerning the July 26, 2026 Wilson Creek operation:

1. **Planning and Coordination.** All communications, requests for assistance, operational plans, briefing materials, directives, and other records concerning the planning, purpose, coordination, or execution of the operation, including communications with U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Forest Service, or any other participating agency from January



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Raleigh, NC 27611
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Jefferson Parker
President

Chantal Stevens
Executive Director



1, 2026 through the present.

2. **Caldwell County's role.** Records indicating or estimating the number of personnel from your office who participated in the operation, their assignments and locations, and the nature and scope of the assistance they provided.
3. **Instructions to personnel.** All instructions, policies, guidance, or briefing materials provided to your personnel concerning stops, questioning, searches, requests for identification, immigration status, or referrals to federal immigration authorities applicable to or in use from January 2026 to the present, including those related to the operation.
4. **Law enforcement encounters.** All records documenting any person or vehicle stopped, detained, questioned, searched, cited, or arrested by your office's personnel during the operation, including records reflecting the basis for any such encounter.
5. **Selection criteria.** All records reflecting the criteria or identifying characteristics used to determine whom to approach, stop, question, search, detain, or refer to another law enforcement agency during the operation.
6. **Operational and post-operational communications.** All dispatch records, radio communications, emails, text messages, mobile data terminal communications, after-action reports, debriefing materials, complaints, summaries, or other records concerning the Caldwell Sheriff's Office's participation in the operation.

Preservation of law enforcement recordings. ACLU-NC also requests that your office preserve all body-worn camera, dashboard camera, and other recordings relating to the July 26, 2026 Wilson Creek operation. This is a preservation request and not a request for disclosure pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.4A.

Justification for withholding. If you determine that some responsive documents are exempt from inspection under the



Public Records Act, please provide a list of the withheld records along with a written explanation that includes a reference to the specific statutory exemption on which you rely. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6.2(c).

Severability. Should you withhold some portions of requested documents on the grounds that they are exempt from disclosure, please specify which exemptions, list any withheld records, and release any portions of the records for which you do not claim an exemption. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(c).

Fee waiver. The ACLU-NC is a nonprofit public interest organization with limited resources, dedicated to the protection of civil rights and civil liberties. The public is the primary beneficiary of the ACLU-NC's work to protect fundamental rights, whether by litigation, legislative advocacy, or publication. For these reasons, federal and state agencies, as well as courts, generally grant waivers of fees for ACLU-NC public records requests. The present request satisfies the statutory criteria for a fee waiver. If you determine no waiver is appropriate, and if the proposed fee is greater than \$50.00, we ask that you notify us prior to fulfilling the above requests.

Delivery. Please furnish all applicable records, preferably in an electronic format, to Jaclyn Maffetore (jmaffetore@acluofnc.org) or to the mailing address indicated on this letter.

Timing. Please provide all responsive records by **September 30, 2026**. If the requested documents cannot be produced all at once, we ask that they be produced on a rolling basis as soon as reasonably possible until the request is fully satisfied.

Please contact us with any questions you may have. We ask that you respond no later than **September 16, 2026**, indicating your intent to comply with our public records request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michele Delgado
Staff Attorney
mdelgado@acluofnc.org

/s/ Jaclyn Maffetore

Senior Staff Attorney
jmaffetore@acluofnc.org

