Statement from the Bexar County Young Democrats on the Killing of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

The Bexar County Young Democrats demand a full investigation alongside LULAC and the Harris County Young Democrats into the killing of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Houston's East End.

On July 7, 2026, ICE agents conducting a "targeted enforcement operation" attempted to stop Salgado Araujo's vehicle on Canal Street. ICE says Salgado Araujo rammed an agency vehicle and refused verbal commands before an officer shot and killed him. According to his son, Ronaldo Salgado, Salgado Araujo was a construction worker on his way to pick up day laborers for a job that morning, was in the process of obtaining a work permit, and may have believed he was being targeted for a robbery rather than a federal stop.

Whatever the disputed facts of this particular stop are, the underlying pattern is not in dispute. ICE agents are increasingly conducting high-risk vehicle stops, often in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles, in predominantly Latino, working-class neighborhoods, against people whose only violation is a civil immigration status. When federal officers escalate routine encounters into deadly force with no body cameras, no independent oversight, and no meaningful accountability to the communities they operate in, tragedies like this are not unexpected. They are the predictable result of a policy that treats immigration enforcement as a paramilitary operation.

We join LULAC and other community organizations in Houston in calling for a full, independent investigation into this shooting, conducted transparently and separately from ICE's own account of events. But an investigation into a single incident is not enough. We call on Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to:

- Require ICE and CBP officers to wear and activate body cameras during all enforcement operations, with footage subject to timely public release.
- End the use of unmarked vehicles and plainclothes officers in immigration stops, which make it impossible for residents to distinguish legitimate law enforcement from impersonators and put both the public and officers at greater risk.
- Establish independent civilian oversight of ICE use-of-force incidents, removing DHS's ability to investigate itself.
- Prohibit high-risk tactics, including PIT maneuvers and vehicle box-ins, for administrative immigration violations that carry no threat to public safety.

Bexar County is home to hundreds of thousands of immigrant families who live with the same fear now gripping Houston's East End. We stand with the Salgado Araujo family and with every Texas community demanding that immigration enforcement be conducted with transparency, restraint, and respect for human life.

Sincerely,

Bexar County Young Democrats