

Congressman Mahoney Demands Explanation From ICE Regarding Officer Shooting Death Investigation

(Washington, D.C.) – Following Florida’s Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court Grand Jury’s finding that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) refused to cooperate with the Grand Jury’s investigation into the shooting death of Officer Andrew Widman by convicted immigrant felon Abel Arango, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16)

announced today that he has sent a letter to ICE Assistant Secretary Julie Myers demanding a written explanation of the agency’s rationale for refusing to participate in the investigation. The full text of the letter is below:

(September 15, 2008)

(Washington, D.C.) – Following Florida’s Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court Grand Jury’s finding that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) refused to cooperate with the Grand Jury’s investigation into the shooting death of Officer Andrew Widman by convicted immigrant felon Abel Arango, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16)

announced today that he has sent a letter to ICE Assistant Secretary Julie Myers demanding a written explanation of the agency’s rationale for refusing to participate in the investigation. The full text of the letter is below:

Honorable Julie L. Myers

Assistant Secretary

U.S.
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Department of Homeland Security

Washington
DC 20528

Dear Assistant Secretary Myers:

I am writing to you regarding the presentment by Florida's Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court Grand Jury. The Grand Jury's presentment pertains to the results of its review of the circumstances leading to the death of Fort Myers Police Officer Andrew Widman on July 18, 2008 at the hands of legal immigrant Abel Arango.

The Grand Jury was charged with reviewing the policies and procedures in use by both law enforcement and the court system in order to determine whether any failures in the system occurred, and if so, how they are being addressed to avoid such problems in the future. The Grand Jury did indeed find that there are some unanswered questions about Arango's detention, his subsequent release on bond, and his deportation status.

I share the concerns of the Grand Jury, and I am disturbed that your agency chose not to cooperate with its investigation. Given the gravity of this issue, and particularly given the tragedy of Officer Widman's death, I respectfully request a written reply to this letter explaining why ICE chose not to participate with the Grand Jury's investigation.

Sincerely,

Tim Mahoney

Member of Congress