

A Confrontation with ICE

by Bill Menke, January 22, 2026

This is an edited version of a letter that I sent to my Congressman, Rep. Mike Lawler, in response to the January 7, 2006 shooting of Renée Good in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent, Jonathan Ross. Good, a thirty-seven-year old mother of three was driving her car at the time she was stopped by several ICE personnel. Agent Ross claimed that he acted in self-defense, after Good assaulted him with her car. Good's side of the story will never be known, as she died instantly of a bullet wound to the head.

About twenty years ago, I was alone in my car, driving home from a kayak trip to Lake Placid, New York. At that time, ICE operated a checkpoint on the Northway, a little south of the Placid exit. I joined the long queue of cars and when my turn came, I was questioned by the ICE officer, with a local policeman standing nearby. After only a few moments, the ICE officer waved me on. The policeman also waved me on, but then suddenly jumped forward, said "stop" and put his hand out in front of my windshield. I slammed on my brakes, but not before my side-view mirror collided with the officer's hand with an audible slap. I was aghast, and urged the officer to seek immediate medical attention, saying that the cost would no doubt be covered by my car insurance. He declined, saying his hand stung a bit but otherwise was fine. Turns out he stopped me because my Inspection Sticker had expired a few days earlier, something I had not realized. He bawled me out, issued me a ticket, and then let me get on my way.

I tell you this story because it illustrates, first, that problems can arise at in officer-citizen interactions that are completely unintentional and unanticipated; and second, that both the ICE officer and the policeman had the good sense not to shoot me. In such situations, effective training and the clear expectations of superiors are vitally important.

Sadly, I believe that training to deal with crowds and traffic stops were sadly lacking in the Good tragedy; furthermore, the ICE leadership has stressed a go-tough approach over public safety.

I believe that this tragedy that so shocked our Nation should have been avoided.