

IMMIGRATION: Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta was arrested for assaulting his girlfriend, but local sanctuary city policies lead to his release. After being released, he kidnapped her, tied a rope around her head, drove into the woods, and said he was going to kill her. After she escaped, he later entered a nine hour-long standoff with SWAT. Wiley Nickel voted against a bill which would make sure local law enforcement cooperated with federal immigration enforcement and could have prevented this from ever taking place.

In 2019, nearly 500 illegal immigrants were released in North Carolina despite administrative detainers issued by ICE, most notably in Mecklenburg County:

- **Nearly 500 illegal immigrants were released across the state of North Carolina in 2019.** “Nearly 500 undocumented immigrants have been released from jails across the state in the past ten months despite administrative detainers filed against them by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement... According to the data, 489 detainers were declined by law enforcement. A detainer is an administrative request from the federal government to a local law enforcement agency to hold someone in jail even after they are eligible for release on their state charge. A detainer is often used by ICE to keep undocumented immigrants in jail because removal from the country is a civil action and not a criminal matter.” (Nick Ochsnet, “ICE: Nearly 500 undocumented immigrants released from NC jails despite detainer,” [WBTU](#), 9/9/2019)

Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta was arrested by police but released shortly after because of Mecklenburg County policies. After his release, he harassed and kidnapped his ex-girlfriend. Pineda-Anchecta was only finally arrested and detained after a nine-hour long standoff with SWAT:

Editor’s Note: The woman who Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta assaulted and kidnapped was his ex-girlfriend, per the [Department of Justice release](#) on the matter.

- **The Mecklenburg County Sheriff, Garry McFadden, does not honor detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).** “McFadden ended his office’s participation in the 287(g) program soon after taking office in 2018 and also announced he would no longer honor ICE detainers, which are separate from the 287(g) program.” (WBTU Staff, “Meck Sheriff responds after man at center of ICE conflict sentenced to 20 years in prison,” [WBTU](#), 2/25/2021)
- **Luis Analberto Pineda-Ancheta was arrested on May 15th, 2019 after assaulting and communicating threats towards a woman, his girlfriend.** “According to filed court documents, evidence presented at trial and witness testimony, on or about May 15, 2019, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers arrested Pineda-Anchecta on several state charges, including assault on a female and communicating threats.” (WBTU Web Staff, “Man at center of conflict between ICE, Meck Sheriff, sentenced to 20 years in prison for kidnapping,” [WBTU](#), 2/23/2021)
- **Luis was released on May 17th, 2019, two days after his arrest on May 15th.** “Two days following his arrest, Pineda-Anchecta was released from state custody on bond.” (WBTU Web Staff, “Man at center of conflict between ICE, Meck Sheriff, sentenced to 20 years in prison for kidnapping,” [WBTU](#), 2/23/2021)

- **On May 21, 2019, Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta kidnapped his ex-girlfriend and communicated threats towards her.** “On May 21, 2019, the female victim was approached by two masked men as she was walking to her vehicle parked at her apartment complex in Charlotte. The victim recognized one of the masked men as the Pineda-Anchecta, who allegedly proceeded to grab the victim by the arm, stuff a cloth in her mouth, and then wrap a cord or rope around her head so the cloth would stay in place. Court documents say that Pineda-Anchecta and the other masked man then forced the female victim against her will into the passenger seat of a vehicle. Pineda-Anchecta then told the female victim “I love you and I’m going to kill you.” The other masked individual did not accompany Pineda-Anchecta and the female in the vehicle.” (WBTV Web Staff, “Man at center of conflict between ICE, Meck Sheriff, sentenced to 20 years in prison for kidnapping,” [WBTV](#), 2/23/2021)
- **Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta dragged his ex-girlfriend into the woods after communicating threats towards her.** “According to court documents, Pineda-Anchecta drove his vehicle on Lancaster Highway. While driving, court documents say that he held a tight grip on the plastic rope tied around the victim’s face. After driving a short while on Lancaster Highway, Pineda-Anchecta parked his vehicle on the side of the road near a wooded area and turned off the engine. Court documents say that he held his grip on the plastic rope around the female victim’s face, pulled her out of the car and dragged her toward the wooded area near the road. Following a struggle, the female victim was able to escape and run into the middle of the highway, and was assisted by drivers who stopped to offer help. According to court documents, the female victim identified Pineda-Anchecta as the person who had assaulted her.” (WBTV Web Staff, “Man at center of conflict between ICE, Meck Sheriff, sentenced to 20 years in prison for kidnapping,” [WBTV](#), 2/23/2021)
- **Luis Analberto Pineda-Anchecta’s arrest was successful following a nine-hour long standoff with SWAT.** “The man arrested following a nine-hour standoff in south Charlotte Thursday had been released from county jail last week – even though immigration officials had placed a detainer on him, federal authorities say. The case of Luis Pineda-Ancheta is the result of Mecklenburg County’s shifting policies on how local law enforcement does – or doesn’t – cooperate with federal officials on immigration enforcement. Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden effectively stopped collaborating with federal authorities on immigration enforcement, including on honoring detainers, following his election in November.” (Teo Armus and Jane Wester, “Inmate was released from Mecklenburg jail despite ICE detainer. He ended up in standoff.,” [WBTV](#), 5/24/2019)

Wiley Nickel voted “No” on H.B. 370, which would have required confinement facilities to cooperate with ICE agents and officials for proper detainment:

- **Wiley Nickel voted “No” on H.B. 370, the “Require Cooperation with ICE Detainers” Act.** (NC General Assembly, “[Senate Roll Call Vote Transcript for Roll Call #338](#),” 6/24/2019)

HB 370: Require Cooperation with ICE Detainers.		Vote: Second Reading	
Roll Call #338	Total votes: 43	Ayes: 25	
Outcome: PASS	Noes: 18	Not Voting: 0	
Sponsor: D. HALL	Excused Absence: 7	Excused Vote: 0	
Time: 6/24/2019 8:51 p.m.			
Ayes (Democrat)	Ayes (Republican)		
None	J. Alexander; T. Alexander; Ballard; Berger (Chair); Bishop; Britt; Brown; Burgin; Daniel; Edwards; Ford; Gallimore; Gunn; Harrington; B. Jackson; Johnson; McInnis; Newton; Perry; Rabon; Sanderson; Sawyer; Steinburg; Tillman; Wells		
Noes (Democrat)	Noes (Republican)		
Blue; Chaudhuri; Clark; deViere; Fitch; Foushee; Lowe; Marcus; McKissick; Mohammed; Nickel; Peterson; Robinson; Searcy; Smith; Van Duyn; Waddell; Woodard	None		
Excused Absence (Democrat)	Excused Absence (Republican)		
D. Davis; Garrett; J. Jackson	J. Davis; Hise; Horner; Krawiec		

(NC General Assembly, "[Senate Roll Call Vote Transcript for Roll Call #338](#)," 6/24/2019)

- H.B. 370 would have required confinement facilities to cooperate with ICE agents and officials for proper detainment.** “House Bill 370 would (1) require confinement facilities to comply with detainers and administrative warrants issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); (2) authorize the removal of a sheriff or officer from office for failing to comply with ICE detainers, and (3) require confinement facilities to submit annual reports to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety (JPS Oversight) regarding compliance with ICE detainers.” (NC General Assembly, "[HOUSE BILL 370: Require Cooperation with ICE Detainers.](#)," Accessed 3/23/2022)