



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

To whom it may concern:

You have been identified as a valued member of the community who may have interest in participating in the inaugural class of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Chicago Citizens Academy.

The ERO Citizens Academy (ECA) is an interactive 6-day program, occurring one day a week over 6 weeks. This first of its kind, the Chicago ECA will serve as a pilot for nationwide implementation. During the ECA, participants will gain insight into the many facets and responsibilities of ICE/ERO operations, and hopefully an awareness and appreciation of the issues our officers face every day in the performance of their duties. We also want to learn from you, our key stakeholders, so I look forward to your participation.

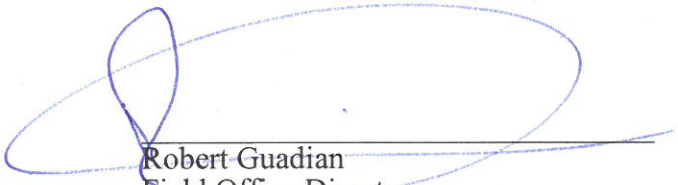
Your valued participation will build a strong foundation of knowledge for those intrigued by the ERO mission. The curriculum includes an introduction to ERO Chicago staff, mapping the lifecycle of a subject through ERO, including the role of the Office of Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA). Attendees will participate in scenario-based training and exercises conducted in a safe and positive environment, including, but not limited to defensive tactics, firearms familiarization, and targeted arrests.

The ECA will be held every Tuesday from 2 – 6 p.m.; it will commence on **Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020**, and conclude on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The ECA will be held at the Chicago Field Office; 101 W Ida B. Wells Parkway, Suite 4000, Chicago, IL., as well as other locations in the area based on the learning objectives. After completion of the ECA, a graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020; graduates will be awarded a certificate and a commemorative coin. Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) may be available upon request.

Your personal health and safety are our priority. Participants will be issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and we will adhere to social distancing guidelines. ERO is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate a speedy, whole-of-government response in confronting Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), keeping everyone safe, and helping detect and slow the spread of the virus.

If you can commit to the ERO Chicago Citizens Academy timelines, please fill out the attached application and return to CommunityRelations.Chicago@ice.dhs.gov by Thursday, July 30, 2020 to ensure full consideration. If you have additional questions, please contact Manda Walters, Community Relations Officer via the email address above or call (312) 956-9251.

Sincerely,



Robert Guadian
Field Office Director