



Statement Regarding October 29, 2025 Incident

On October 29, 2025, an incident occurred at MKE Urban Stables involving what appeared to be the staging of law enforcement officers affiliated with ICE. We want to clearly address the situation, reaffirm our policies, and provide accurate information to our community.

First and foremost: the activity that took place on our site was not authorized by MKE Urban Stables.

Staging by ICE—or by any law enforcement organization—is **not permitted on our property**. Our facility exists to serve the community as a center for outreach, equine-assisted programs, and mental wellness. Activities that conflict with this mission are not allowed.

We were **not alerted** to any ICE or other federal agent actions expected to take place on Oct. 29. Upon following up with the **Milwaukee Police Department**, leadership there acknowledged they **were not aware** of any intent by federal authorities to use the parking lot for staging purposes. While MPD does not have the authority to tell federal agencies to not use that property, it did confirm the understanding that our parking lot would not be used when MPD participates in a law enforcement operation.

We also want to **clarify misinformation** circulating about the dismissal of a volunteer. **The volunteer was not dismissed for disrupting an ICE staging.** In fact, we share the concern of many in our community: **we do not want ICE or any other law enforcement agency staging operations on our site.**

The volunteer was dismissed for a different reason. **They did not report the activity to MKE Urban Stables staff until after they confronted the law enforcement officers**, which is a violation of our volunteer policies. Their independent confrontation with the officers created a potential safety risk to themselves and others on site. Additionally, the delay in notifying staff and eventual posting on social media complicated our ability to quickly communicate with the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) and to confirm that MPD was not involved in the staging.

Our partnership with MPD is essential to our mission.

Together, we use the Stables as a place for healing, trust-building, and community engagement. Posting about the incident publicly before confirming that MPD had no involvement strained this important relationship and made it more difficult to conduct responsible outreach.

At the same time, we want to be very clear: **our partnership with MPD does not mean we condone or support overreach by ICE or any other law enforcement agency.** Our commitment is, and always will be, to the well-being of our community and to ensuring that our site remains a safe, welcoming environment for all.

We remain dedicated to transparency, community trust, and our mission of providing meaningful, restorative programs at MKE Urban Stables. If you have questions or concerns, we invite you to contact us directly.