

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 28, 2026

Mr. Timothy Powderly
Senior Director, Government Affairs, Americas
Apple
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Powderly:

On June 16, 2026, I wrote to former Apple CEO Tim Cook regarding Apple's decision to remove ICEBlock and similar apps from the App Store. Blocking access to these apps, at the request of the federal government, raises the distinct possibility that Apple is working with the government to violate its customers' First Amendment rights to record and report on the activities of their own government. Monitoring the actions of federal immigration authorities who have been deployed to their neighborhoods, including agents who have beaten, tazed, pepper sprayed, and even killed protesters, bystanders, and individuals going about their day, is a core First Amendment right and not a crime.¹

I am in receipt of your July 22 response. I understand that Apple's decision to remove ICEBlock was prompted by two factors: the September 24, 2025, attack on a Department of Homeland Security building in Dallas, Texas; and representations the Department of Justice (DOJ) made to Apple after the Dallas incident.

The House Judiciary Committee takes attacks on law enforcement officers seriously. Yet there is no evidence that the shooter in the Dallas "may have used ICEBlock in the lead up to the attack," as you suggest. Although the suspect in that case appears to have searched for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) tracking apps in the App Store, he did not need a tracking app to locate the fixed position of a government building—indeed, he is reported to have found the address using an app that comes standard on Apple devices.² There appears to be no direct connection between the Dallas incident and the apps you removed.

¹ E.g., *Massimino v. Benoit and Laone*, U.S. Court for Appeals for the 2nd Cir., 14 (Aug. 17, 2026), https://ww3.ca2.uscourts.gov/decisions/OPN/25-1104_complete_opn.pdf ("[T] the right to record law enforcement activity in public vindicates the paramount public interest in a free flow of information to the people concerning public officials, their servants.").

² See Greg Norman-Diamond, *Dallas ICE Gunman's Handwritten Note Threatened 'Real Terror,' FBI Reveals*, FOX NEWS (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/dallas-ice-gunmans-handwritten-note-threatened-real-terror-fbi-reveals>; Nick Penzenstadler, *ICEBlock App Blamed for Violence Aimed at Immigration Officers*, USA TODAY (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/09/25/iceblock-app-immigration-sighting->

You write that, “in the wake of the fatal Dallas shooting, the U.S. Department of Justice expressed serious concerns to Apple that ICEBlock posed a threat to the safety of federal officers.” A year ago, it *might* have been reasonable for Apple to take these representations at face value. In the intervening months, the Trump Administration has lost all credibility in these matters. In statement after statement, Administration officials have lied about the criminal acts of violence their agents have committed against protesters and bystanders.³ When federal agents killed Renée Good and Alex Pretti, then-Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem immediately lied, calling Americans exercising their First and Second Amendment rights “domestic terrorists.” She repeatedly refused to correct the record, including when given the opportunity at hearings of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees.⁴ In courthouses across the country, federal judges from across the ideological spectrum have raised the alarm about this Administration’s pattern of lying about facts and evidence.⁵ Whatever DOJ told Apple about ICEBlock and other similar apps, you would be well advised to interrogate and verify their claims.

Apps like ICEBlock serve an important purpose. They help a handful of brave citizens identify and make a record of violent incidents in their communities. Apple has traditionally allowed other apps with similar functionalities to thrive on its App Store.⁶ And, of course, every day, hundreds of millions of users take advantage of navigation apps downloaded from the App Store that track the location of law enforcement officers in real time.⁷

I therefore write to you again with two requests. First, please identify for the Committee the full list of apps that Apple has removed from the App Store after you received requests to do so from the federal government. Second, as soon as practicable, please conduct your own independent review of the decision to remove those apps to ascertain if they do, in fact, violate your terms of service—and please notify me when that review begins and concludes.

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³ See, e.g., Anthony Thompson, *ICE Officer Charged with Lying in Minnesota Shooting Case*, USA TODAY (Sept. 3, 2026), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2026/09/03/ice-officer-charged-lying-minnesota-shooting/91596157007/>; Brad Reed, *‘The Agents Were Lying’: ICE Exposed Yet Again by Video of Minneapolis Shooting*, COMMON DREAMS (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.commondreams.org/news/ice-lies-minneapolis-shooting>.

⁴ Benjamin S. Weiss, *Noem Refuses to Backpedal on Calling Alex Pretti a Domestic Terrorist*, COURTHOUSE NEWS (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://courthousenews.com/noem-refuses-to-backpedal-on-calling-alex-pretti-a-domestic-terrorist/>; See *Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security*, H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY (Mar. 4, 2026), <https://judiciary.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/oversight-department-homeland-security-0>.

⁵ See, e.g., C.J. Ciaramella, *Courts Say the Justice Department Is Shredding the ‘Presumption of Regularity.’ It never Deserved Extra Trust*, REASON (Aug. 6, 2026), <https://reason.com/2026/08/06/courts-say-the-justice-department-is-shredding-the-presumption-of-regularity-it-never-deserved-extra-trust/>; J. David McSwane, Pratheek Rebala & Carla Astudillo, *Federal Judges Chastise Trump’s Justice Department for “Unlawful,” “Unethical” and “Unseemly” Conduct*, PROPUBLICA (July 28, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/justice-department-presumption-of-regularity>.

⁶ See, e.g., *7 Apps for Police Recording and Public Protection*, KHALAF LAW FIRM (Jan. 7, 2024), <https://www.klf-law.com/blog/7-apps-for-police-recording-and-public-protection>; *Citizen: Safety & Live Video*, APPLE APP STORE, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/citizen-safety-live-video/id1039889567> (last visited Sept. 3, 2026).

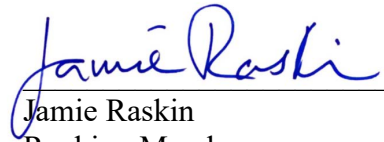
⁷ See, e.g., Elyse Betters Picaro, *I Tested Google Maps vs. Waze to Find the Best Updated Navigation App – and This One Wins*, ZDNET (July 15, 2026), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/google-maps-vs-waze-2026/>.

Mr. Timothy Powderly

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

John Ternus, Chief Executive Officer
Apple