



SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

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**TRUMP TAKES AIM
AT BOMBARDIER
AIRCRAFT FLOWN
OUT OF AREA FLIGHT
CREW BASE. A2**



**EARLY DEFICIT
LEADS TO
DRAGONS LOSS
IN PLAYOFFS. D1**

**U.K. BANS
GOODS FROM
ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS.
B1**

IMMIGRATION

Faith leaders demand changes to ICE policies

More than 500 religious leaders sign letters to officials.

Cornelius Frolik
Staff Writer

Faith leaders this week stepped up their calls on U.S. lawmakers who represent Ohio to take action to try to release Haitian ICE detainees and end immigration enforcement activities in Springfield.

Pastors from churches in Springfield and other communities held a press conference outside of U.S. Rep. Mike Turner's Dayton office on Tuesday, Sept. 8, where they demanded that the Republican congressman and other Ohio elected officials restore Temporary Protected Status for Haiti and provide Haitian nationals who reside here realistic ways to obtain permanent protected status or U.S. citizenship.

Speakers also said ICE must end its practice of placing ankle monitors on Haitian community members to track their locations and movements.

"We want our representatives, our governor, our senator to know that the world is watching Springfield, the world is watching Ohio and our demands are serious," said Kellie Kelly, a minister of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Dayton. "We need ICE out of Springfield and out of Ohio. ... We do not need ICE terrorizing our communities."

During a visit to Warren County last week, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said he has no plans to change ICE's ankle monitor



Warren County Sheriff Barry Riley and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin speak in Lebanon on Friday, Sept. 4. CONTRIBUTED

policies and he promised that immigration enforcement activities in Springfield will continue.

"We made 380 arrests in Springfield. We are going to continue to push," Mullin said on Sept. 4, during a meeting with Warren County Sheriff Barry Riley and ICE officials from Ohio field offices. "We encourage everyone to go home."

Dayton visit

On Tuesday morning, clergy members delivered a letter to Rep. Turner's office on West Third Street in downtown Dayton that makes several requests. The letter, which was signed by more than 500 religious leaders, also was sent to U.S. Rep. Mike Carey, R-Columbus, and Republican U.S. Sens. Jon Husted and Bernie Moreno.

Turner, whose district includes Springfield until next year, was one of 10 House Republicans who voted for a bill earlier this year that would extend TPS for Haiti.

The letter asks elected leaders to call on ICE to immediately stop operations in Springfield and release Joubert Adrien, a Haitian pastor that federal agents recently arrested and incarcerated.

The letter asks congressional leaders to support restoring TPS for Haiti, plus create a pathway for Haitian nationals to obtain permanent residence or citizenship. The letter also urges elected representatives to push ICE to discontinue placing ankle monitors on Haitian people who "have committed no crime."

"We are here today, to gather together, to stand in solidarity to say, 'unshackle Springfield,'" said

Pastor Cheryl Powers, with Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Springfield, during Tuesday's press conference, which lasted about 50 minutes and had more than 50 attendees.

Powers said deporting people to Haiti will subject them to grave unrest, uncertainty, violence and chaos.

Speakers on Tuesday talked about what they described as the tragic and unjust death of Pierre Damas Bel, a 20-year-old Springfield High School graduate who killed himself by walking into traffic on Aug. 31.

Friends and family say Bel, who was born in Haiti, grew depressed and deeply ashamed after ICE forced him to wear an ankle monitor. Family members

Policies continued on A6

NEW DETAILS

No charges against Springfield manager, prosecutor says

Anonymous letters alleged sexual assault 10 years ago.

Jessica Orozco
Staff Writer

The Clark County prosecutor declined to file any criminal charges against Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck for an alleged sexual assault incident involving another employee following an investigation by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Heck was placed on paid administrative leave July 28 after anonymous letters sent to the city alleged he sexually assaulted another employee.

Clark County Prosecutor Dan Driscoll said in a Tuesday, Sept. 8 media release that his office was contacted by BCI Aug. 27 about the investigation.

Driscoll wrote that the complaints allege Heck "sexually

assaulted a city employee by 'tea-bagging' that individual, who was lying on a couch in the City Hall office complex."

Driscoll defines "tea-bagging" as traditionally involving a person being unclothed but said the definition "has since expanded to indicate any lowering of the groin onto another person's head or face regardless of clothing."

During the investigation, BCI searched personnel records, spoke with acting City Manager Jason Via and interviewed the alleged victim and a potential witness. Driscoll also spoke with two current city employees and one former employee.

Driscoll did not name the alleged victim, noting that no police report was filed and that he wanted to protect them from "embarrassment, harassment or further exposure."

Driscoll said his inquiry was only to review the facts to determine if there "is sufficient evidence of sexual assault on the part of Heck to justify either further investigation, criminal charges or grand jury presentation."

The letters included no date

Manager continued on A6

SPECIAL COVERAGE

9/11 had impact on Wright-Patterson operations

Focus shifted, with leaders adjusting tech priorities and more.

Thomas Gnau
Staff Writer

Twenty-five years after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, America and the world are different. So is the Air Force.

The Air Force swung into action in the hours after the Twin Towers fell, and the service

continued acting as the War on Terror grew global in its reach and implications.

Time was of the essence. The focus for the Air Force became speed and urgency, some of those involved recalled in new interviews with the Dayton Daily News.

"We used what we had, regardless of how mature our inventory was," said retired Gen. Lester Lyles, who commanded Air

9/11 continued on A6



A doctor and nurses from the 445th Airlift Wing's Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Staging Squadrons board a C-17 Globemaster III in 2020 at Wright-Patterson, heading to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. PATRICK O'REILLY /

THE LATEST

Kremlin: Putin tells Trump Europe not a target. **B2**

Springfield family's 50-year-old plant only blooms at night. **C1**

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9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

25 Flags for 25 Years of Remembrance
Friday, September 11, 2026
10:00 a.m.

The Ferncliff War Wall Memorial
Ferncliff Cemetery & Arboretum

Please join Ferncliff Cemetery & Arboretum as we place 25 American flags to mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. During this brief ceremony, we will remember the lives lost, honor the courage and sacrifice of our first responders, and recognize all those forever affected by the events of 9/11. The community is welcome.