



Monroe County Legislature

**VICE PRESIDENT
MERCEDES VAZQUEZ SIMMONS AND
LEGISLATOR
RACHEL BARNHART**

April 11, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

County Executive Adam Bello
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

County Executive Bello,

We are writing to express serious concern about Avelo Airlines' decision to contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to operate deportation flights. Avelo has chosen to profit from the forced removal of immigrants—often without due process—causing irreparable harm to individuals, families, and communities.

As a county that claims to honor the legacy of Frederick Douglass, we should not be doing business with a company that enables and benefits from cruel, inhumane immigration enforcement practices. These deportations violate basic human rights and contradict the values our community stands for.

We urge you to join us in publicly condemning Avelo's partnership with ICE and make it clear that Monroe County will not support or incentivize companies engaging in unjust deportation practices.

Additionally, we request a full review and disclosure of Monroe County's relationship with Avelo Airlines, including:

1. All contracts, agreements, or memoranda of understanding between Monroe County and Avelo Airlines, including terminal use, incentives, or fee structures;
2. All records of county assistance or support offered to Avelo, including marketing, infrastructure, or promotional partnerships;
3. Any provisions in existing contracts that allow the county to reconsider or reevaluate its relationship with the airline.

Public funds and facilities should not be used to subsidize or legitimize companies that participate in federal actions widely recognized as harmful and inhumane. We have a duty to ensure that our airport, named after one of the nation's greatest champions of human rights, reflects the values of dignity and justice.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and request a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Vazquez Simmons
Vice President

Rachel Barnhart
Legislator – District 17