

NBC's *Today*

01/13/26

7:00:06 a.m. [TEASE]

38 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Alarming Confrontation]

LAURA JARRETT: Tensions only mounting in Minneapolis.

CRAIG MELVIN: After yet another heated face-off between protesters and federal agents. It is January 13. This is *Today*. Alarming confrontation.

[SHOUTING] [WHISTLES BLOWING]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Alarming Confrontation]

MELVIN: Officers using tear gas and pepper spray to clear the streets during another anti-ICE demonstration. This morning, what ignited that heated exchange and the new lawsuit filed to block more ICE agents.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL KEITH ELLISON (D): This is, in essence, a federal invasion of the twin cities and Minnesota, and it must.

MELVIN; And how the White House is responding. We'll have the very latest in a live report.

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7:03:26 a.m.

3 minutes and 46 seconds

MELVIN: But we do want to start once again in Minneapolis where city and state officials are now suing the Trump administration over the growing deployment of federal officers there.

JARRETT: And they want it to end, pointing to these violent clashes like this one. Immigration officers firing tear gas and pepper spray at protesters in the middle of a Minneapolis neighborhood.

MELVIN: NBC's Maggie Vespa was there. She was in the middle of that, covering that demonstration and she joins us now once again from Minneapolis. Maggie, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Clashes Over ICE Operations]

MAGGIE VESPA: Craig and Laura, good morning. The man who says his jarring encounter with federal immigration officers quickly devolved into that chaotic scene which happened just a couple blocks from here, this morning speaking out to NBC News. This, as Minnesota officials

accuse the Trump administration of “spreading terror and chaos” with the White House now firing back. This morning, outrage in Minneapolis. Our cameras there as federal officers swarmed by protesters Monday deployed tear gas and pepper spray. This entire neighborhood is shut down. People blowing whistles here. letting everyone in the neighborhood know that federal officers are on the ground.

UNIDENTIFIED ANTI-ICE PROTESTER: We are being attacked by the government and there’s no one here to help us.

VESPA: Neighbors said the confrontation started when an immigration officer rear-ended this car. The driver Christian Molina saying they then asked whether he was in the country legally.

CHRISTIAN MOLINA: Luckily they didn’t hurt me or, you know, they didn’t shoot at me, but what if they did?

VESPA: Molina, who says he is a U.S. citizen and father of four, told us he wasn’t doing anything wrong when the ICE vehicle went after him.

MOLINA: There’s no reason for them to just look at you and try to chase you. That’s — I believe that’s not right.

VESPA: NBC News reached out to DHS about Molina’s account. So far, no response. Neighbors, who have begun organizing track immigration raids, quickly descended on the scene. The clash, just blocks from where an ICE officer fatally shot Renee Nicole Good last week. The city and state suing multiple top Trump officials.

ELLISON: The deployment of thousands of armed, masked DHS agents to Minnesota has done our state serious harm. This is, in essence, a federal invasion of the Twin Cities and Minnesota and it must stop.

VESPA: The White House blasting Minnesota Democrats, calling the suit a pathetic stunt. DHS saying federal officers in Minneapolis have arrested criminals in the U.S. illegally, some with convictions for violent crimes.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KAROLINE LEAVITT [on FNC’s *America Reports*, 01/12/26]: We are surging resources to Minneapolis and the Trump administration is going to deliver on President Trump’s mandate to remove violent, illegal aliens from our communities.

VESPA: As this as new video shows officers pulling a man out of a car saying he was impeding law enforcement.

MELVIN: So, Maggie, going back to that lawsuit you mentioned in your report there, what more do we know about that and the next steps pertaining to it?

VESPA: Yeah. Craig, it will undoubtedly be a long road ahead in the courts, but at least in the

short term or on the front end of this, local officials are hoping to halt immigration operations here in the Minneapolis area, saying it's preventing the city and the state from carrying out what they call core functions when it comes to public safety saying these calls about immigration officers on the ground and these protests are consuming policing resources and, by the way, Minnesota not alone. The state of Illinois now also suing the trump administration accusing federal officers on the ground of using "unlawful and dangerous tactics." As we mentioned, the White House pushing back flatly on all of this, Craig.

MELVIN: Maggie Vespa on the ground for us once again. Maggie, thank you.

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8:00:09 a.m. [TEASE]

17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Fallout]

MELVIN: Coming up on *Today*, new fallout. More outrage in Minneapolis. Protesters clashing with federal immigration agents again. Minnesota officials suing the Trump administration over the growing deployment of federal officers. We're live with the very latest.

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8:02:16 a.m.

1 minute and 49 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; New Clashes Over ICE Operations]

MELVIN: And we begin with the growing tensions in Minneapolis, after yet another heated clash between protesters and federal agents, and now city and state officials are suing the Trump administration over the deployment of federal officers there. NBC's Maggie Vespa joins us from Minneapolis once again with the very latest. Maggie, good morning.

VESPA: Hey, Craig, good morning. Yeah, the protests here on the ground and backlash definitely escalating. Our team witnessing it firsthand yesterday. Case in point, this chaotic scene in the middle of a Minneapolis neighborhood, our crew witnesses pepper spray, tear gas, flash bangs, as federal officers tried to disperse neighbors and protesters who had just swarmed their vehicles within minutes. Witnesses said it started when federal agents rear-ended a car and this morning, the driver, Christian Molina, speaking out to NBC News saying those officers — you see them there — had been following him, rear-ended him, and then asked if he was in the country legally. The father of four, who says he's a U.S. citizen, telling us he was never arrested, and that he's grateful his neighbors came out. We reached out to DHS for comment on his story. So far, no response. Meanwhile, here in Minneapolis, the city and state now suing the Trump administration over this influx of officers, saying it's "spreading terror and chaos" and, of course, highlighting last week's fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good. This morning, the White House is

firing back calling that lawsuit a “pathetic stunt” and touting arrests made by federal officers on the ground of undocumented residents who they say had violent criminal records. Aka, all signs pointing to this conflict not going anywhere any time soon, Craig.

MELVIN: Maggie Vespa on the ground in Minneapolis. Maggie, thank you. Stay safe there.