

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: A Look at the Chain of Events in Minneapolis]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Many Americans have been shocked by the images and stories coming out of Minneapolis these last few weeks. The White House says the surge in Homeland Security agents to the area was about combating fraud along with deporting criminal undocumented immigrants. But here's the thing, many arrested people have no criminal record. Some say they were stopped at random. So, how did things turn chaotic? Lilia Luciano reports.

DYLAN ALVERSON: We're all in crisis mode.

LILIA LUCIANO: Dylan Alverson owns a cafe in South Minneapolis, just a few blocks away from where Renee Good was shot and killed by federal agents in early January.

ALVERSON: I've never seen something like this that has left me daily feeling like if I walk out of my door and try to help people that I see, I may be shot and killed.

LUCIANO: But how exactly did we get to this point? To answer that, we have to go back to the first week of December when the Department of Homeland Security announced an immigration operation dubbed Metro Surge in Minneapolis. Minnesota had already been under scrutiny over a massive public fraud scandal that involves some locals and some members of the state's Somali community. Many had been investigated and prosecuted.

NICK SHIRLEY [in 12/26/25 YouTube video]: We are checking rates. We ask for rates.

SOMALI "DAY CARE" WORKER [in 12/26/25 YouTube video]: No, you're not.

LUCIANO: But the controversy exploded on December 26th when a conservative influencer released a now viral YouTube video claiming to expose the public fraud.

HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY KRISTI NOEM [on 01/07/26]: Individuals were allowed to come into this country and set up fake companies and fake nonprofits and divert billions of dollars.

LUCIANO: By January 5, some 2,000 additional federal immigration agents were being deployed to the Twin Cities, its biggest operation yet. Two days later, Renee Good was killed, setting off major protests.

MAYOR JACOB FREY (D) [on 01/07/26]: To ICE, get the [EXPLETIVE] out of Minneapolis!

LUCIANO: People here described the federal operation as an occupation of the city. Gustavo Navos is in the U.S. legally on a visa. He says he spent roughly 24 hours detained and was almost sent out of the state before his lawyer intervened. [TO NAVOS] Why did they say that they stopped you? "Because you looked Hispanic?"

GUSTAVO NAVOS: Yep.

LUCIANO: Alex Plechash is the Chairman of Minnesota's Republican Party. [TO PLECHASH] Was it necessary, though, to bring all of these agents because the city or the state were not cooperating with federal agencies? Has this been an issue before?

ALEX PLECHASH: It hasn't really been an issue before, except I think common sense tells you that sanctuary policies could lead to this kind of thing. Now, in terms of the government sending all of these people in, all I can think is that they're trying to make a statement.

LUCIANO [TO PLECHASH]: And what's that statement?

PLECHASH: And that statement is that you're going to have to start following the law.

LUCIANO: For Alverson, the problem and the solution are more simple. [TO ALVERSON] How do you think this ends?

ALVERSON: ICE leaving.

LUCIANO: We are waiting to hear back from DHS about Navos' particular case, and while Vice President J.D. Vance has denied that agents are racially profiling people, we heard last week from the Police Chief in nearby Brooklyn Park that his own police officers, while off duty, were being targeted and Vlad, every single one of them, he said, was a person of color.

DUTHIERS: All right, Lilia, thank you very much for that reporting.