

8. Silverio Villegas González

Who was Silverio Villegas González? Silverio was a 38 year old immigrant from the Mexican state of Michoacán who had lived and worked in Chicago for nearly twenty years. At the time of his death at the hands of ICE agents he was living with his girlfriend, her 13-year-old daughter, and his two sons, aged 3 and 7. He was making his living as a line cook.

How did Silverio Villegas González end up under ICE control? On September 12, 2025, ICE agents were conducting a targeted traffic stop in Franklin Park. In a statement released by ICE and quoted widely in the media it says: “He (Silverio Villegas Gonzáles) refused to follow law enforcements [sic] commands and drove his car at law enforcement officers. One of the ICE officers was hit by the car and dragged a significant distance. Fearing for his own life, the officer fired his weapon.”

How did Silverio Villegas González die under ICE auspices? Security footage near the scene in Franklin Park, IL, shows two plainclothes agents approaching a silver sedan that had been blocked from moving by an unmarked SUV. The sedan eventually reverses away from the two agents, and the officer on the passenger side points his firearm at the vehicle. As Villegas González drives away from the agents—not toward them, as DHS claimed—the agent on the passenger side aims his weapon at the back of Villegas González’s car. Two gunshots can be heard in a separate security video. The second agent is not visible during the shooting, and it remains unclear which agent fired their weapon.

What happened after Silverio Villegas González died? Bodycam footage showed the ICE agent describing his injuries as "nothing major", contradicting the official narrative. Eyewitnesses later stated that they did not see Villegas's vehicle dragging any ICE agents, and a truck driver stated that Villegas reversed after being blocked off by agents.

DHS and ICE not only lied about the circumstances of Silverio’s death, they lied about his record with the law. They admitted that Villegas González had no criminal record, but DHS claimed that he had "a history of reckless driving". An investigation found he had four traffic violations between 2010 and 2019 for offenses, one for speeding, one for an expired driver's license, for not having insurance, and for not having a child restraint seat. The most recent case was from 2013. A lawyer who represented him in two of the cases said that he was "very compliant" with all court requirements and responsibilities.

Sources:

<https://chicagoreader.com/news/ice-shooting-silverio-villegas-gonzalez-franklin-park/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/16/investigate-death-of-mexican-national-during-ice-stop>