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*The Beacon is a publication written by the Beacon staff; the editorial views expressed are those of the authors. The Beacon Editor can be reached at [Beacon\\_Editor@gtdems.org](mailto:Beacon_Editor@gtdems.org).*

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## Protest for ICE Killings Draws Crowd Estimated at 2000

By Bruce Moore

The Sunday afternoon downtown Traverse City march to protest the ICE killing of Alex Pretti drew a much larger crowd than the *Beacon* expected. As the march has been covered elsewhere, the *Beacon* is focusing on photos of signs. The march was covered by [UpNorthLive](#), [9 and 10 News](#) and the [Record-Eagle](#). UpNorthLive estimated the crowd at 2000, while 9 and 10 and the Record-Eagle described it as “hundreds.”



Figure 1: One sign expressing frustration with the total silence of GOP leaders to the killing of Alex Pretti.



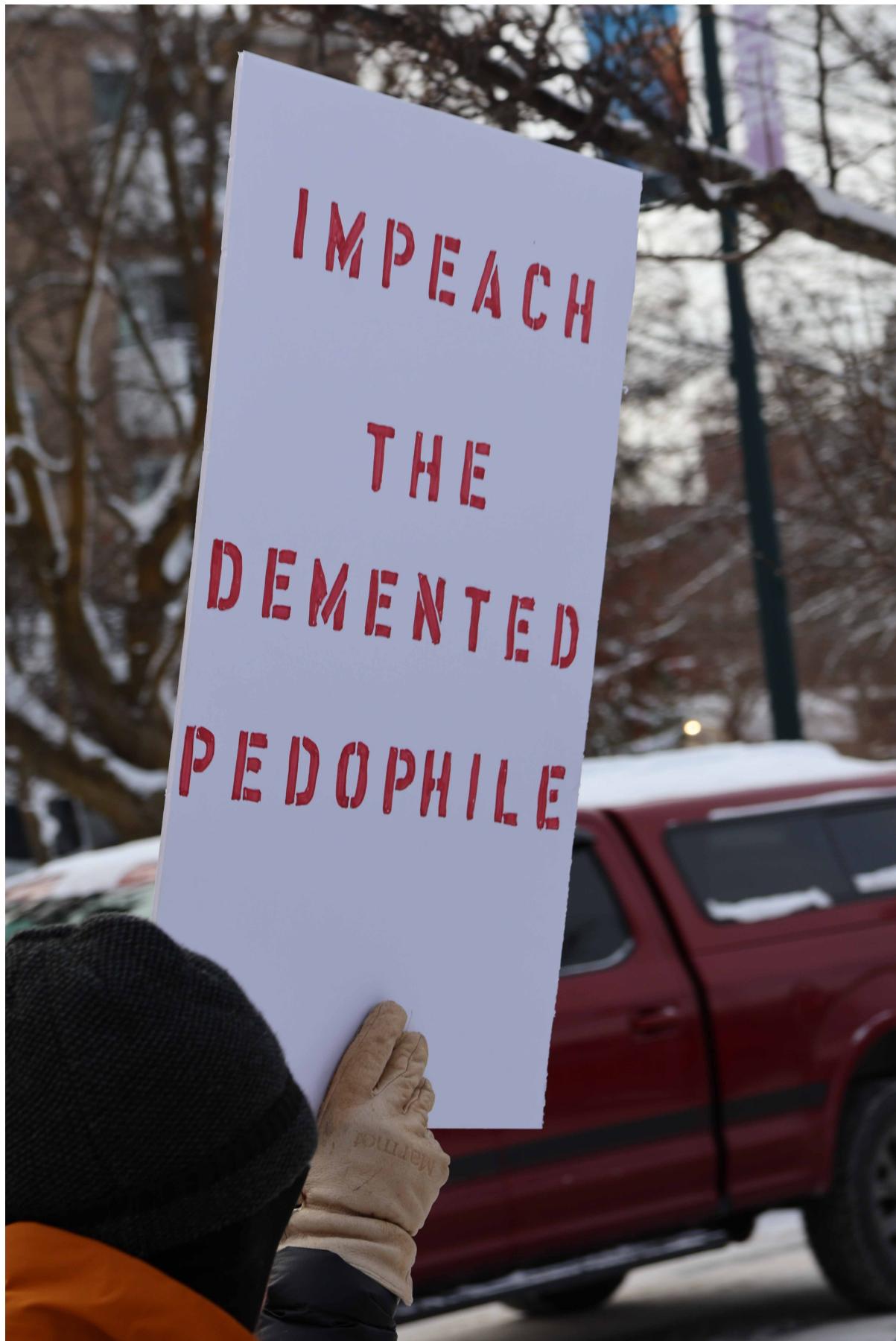


Figure 2: This sign maker appears to think the ICE aggression and Venezuela actions are intentional distractions from other issues.



Figure 3: With two un-investigated killings of Minneapolis protesters, ICE is rapidly earning a reputation for state-sponsored terrorism.



Figure 4: One marcher has a question for biblical scholars.

## March Lasted 120 Minutes, Covered 0.7 Mile Route

The march had a published start time of 1:00 PM and a published end time of 3:00 PM.



Figure 5: At 1:03, the crowd already extended from State Street to at least Sixth Street.



Figure 6: At 1:25 PM, the beginning marchers had already started returning on State Street, while new arrivals were turning on to Front Street. 1:25 PM time is taken from camera time, not the clock tower.



Figure 7: At 1:50, the crowd returning on State Street was very dense as it waited for the lights to change.

## **BOC Salary and Retention Ad Hoc to Review RFP Responses for Administrator and Health Officer Performance Reviews**

The Salary and Retention Ad Hoc will review RFP responses from several firms for services to conduct performance reviews and coaching for the Administrator and Health Officer. The Administrator's reviews have traditionally been a popularity contest questionnaire to Commissioners, with no effort to provide anonymous input from other parts of the organization. The questionnaires gave little useful information on what the Administrator does well and where there are areas for professional growth or organizational restructuring. Given that the County experienced nearly 20% turnover in 2024, it would be useful to know if management practices and organizational structures are part of the retention problems.

The Health Officer is an unusual position that statutorily reports directly to the County Commission. None of the Commissioners has the expertise to know whether the Health Officer is doing a great job or a poor job.

The [full 118-page packet is available on the County website](#).

## **Housing Ad Hoc to Issue Housing Study RFP**

By Bruce Moore

The TIF, PILOT and Brownfield Ad Hoc (Housing Ad Hoc for clarity and simplicity) will meet Wednesday, January 28 to vote on issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for a housing study. The Ad Hoc will review the Zoning Atlas recently issued by the Grand Traverse Economic Development Corporation, and look at TIF policies and plans for Oakland County and East Bay Township.

The [full 99-page packet is available on the County website](#).

## Contacting the Beacon

The Beacon Editor can be reached at [Beacon\\_Editor@gtdems.org](mailto:Beacon_Editor@gtdems.org).

## Helpful Links and Info

BOC meetings are usually held at 9:00 am on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Find a link to the agenda at: <https://grandtraversecounty.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal>

Watch the livestream of the meetings at: <https://www.tacm.tv/govtvnow.asp>

The BOC permits public comment for up to three minutes each at the beginning and end of each meeting. Public comment remotely is not allowed. If you wish to make a public comment, you need to attend the meeting.

The BOC has nine commissioners—five Republicans and four Democrats—each of whom represents a district. Find your commissioner at: <https://www.gtcouintymi.gov/184/Board-of-Commissioners>

Email all commissioners at: [commissioners@gtcouintymi.gov](mailto:commissioners@gtcouintymi.gov).

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