

# Marimar Martinez Announces Civil Claim Addressing Shooting by Border Patrol Agent

The law firms of Gallagher & Kosner Law LLC and Cheronis & Parente LLC held a press conference on February 11, 2026, to release previously sealed evidence and announce a civil claim arising out of the shooting of Marimar Martinez by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent.

Ms. Martinez, a United States citizen, is a 30-year-old Montessori school teaching aid and a lifelong resident of Chicago, Illinois. On October 4, 2025, she noticed an SUV driven by CBP agents in her neighborhood. Ms. Martinez followed the agents in her own vehicle, honking her horn to alert community members of the agents' presence. She was driving alongside the SUV when CBP Agent Charles Exum (Agent Exum), who was driving the SUV, swerved into her vehicle. Agent Exum and the governmental official's claim that Martinez "rammed" them was disproven by one of the CBP Agents' body-worn camera (BWC) video and Agent Exum's sworn testimony. Instead, the video captured the agents' stating "it's time to get aggressive and get the fuck out" before Agent Exum suddenly jerked the steering wheel towards Ms. Martinez's vehicle immediately before impact.

After both vehicles came to a stop, Agent Exum exited his vehicle and fired 5 shots at Ms. Martinez's vehicle in less than 2 seconds. Struck by bullets and fearing for her life, Ms. Martinez drove forward and swerved away from Agent Exum before two of those five shots went through the rear-passenger window of her vehicle. She continued driving for over a mile until she pulled into a parking lot and called 911. She was taken to a hospital where she received emergency medical treatment for her injuries. Ms. Martinez was shot twice in her right leg, twice in her right thigh, once in her right forearm, and one of the bullets grazed the right side of her chest.

On October 5, 2025, Ms. Martinez was charged with criminally assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating, and interfering with a federal officer. That prosecution was dismissed with prejudice a month later. The evidence from Ms. Martinez's criminal case had been under seal pursuant to a protective order, but on February 10, 2026, the Honorable Judge Georgia Alexakis of the Northern District of Illinois entered a modified protective order allowing Ms. Martinez and her attorneys to release much of the evidence they obtained, refuting the claims made by U.S. officials.

Even though the charges against Ms. Martinez have been dismissed, the U.S. government has continued to label her a "domestic terrorist." More appallingly, in the days after the shooting Agent Exum boasted in text messages to fellow agents "I fired 5 rounds and she had 7 holes. Put that in your book boys." When asked whether he was the agent captured on BWC threatening "do something bitch" prior to Ms. Martinez being shot, Agent Exum responded "oh well, it is what it is. Shit happens."

Instead of investigating, disciplining, or at least placing Agent Exum on administrative leave, the disgraced and recently demoted CPG Chief Gregory Bovino emailed Agent Exum four hours after the shooting - and while Ms. Martinez lay in the hospital fighting for her life - and *rewarded* him by offering to extend his retirement "in light of [his] excellent service in Chicago, you have much left to do!!"

Ms. Martinez will be pursuing a civil claim and we will hold the Department of Homeland Security (DHC), the CBP, and their agents accountable.