



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on January 16, 2026

Trump Backs Off Insurrection Act Threat; FBI Arrests Gang Member Who Stole FBI Weapon

This afternoon, President Donald Trump backed off what apparently was an empty threat to invoke the Insurrection Act if far-left Minnesota Democratic Governor Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey didn't get control of leftist rioters in the once-great city.

Trump still promised to quell the rebellion in the city, but did not mention the act. How he will do so he didn't say. Several Republicans said that they didn't approve invoking the act.

As rioting over the shooting of an illegal alien who brutally attacked an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent with the help of two illegal-alien comrades continued, authorities collared one of the goons who broke into federal vehicles and stole weaponry during Wednesday's rioting.



AP Images

President Trump says he does not plan to invoke the Insurrection Act right now, 'I will if I need to'. The protests are so weak and the arrests are stacking, it is not necessary at this time; humiliating for the agitators. pic.twitter.com/hReibjIZO

— 🇺🇸Salty Texan (@texan_maga) [January 16, 2026](#)

Trump Caves

[The president vowed](#) to invoke the Insurrection Act because leftists rioted after an ICE agent shot an illegal alien whom he was trying to apprehend. During the struggle, two illegal aliens jumped in and began beating the agent with a shovel and broomstick.

Frey and Walz, of course, blamed ICE, not the illegals — all of them Biden "migrants" [released at](#) the border — and so Trump stepped in [with a warning](#) on Truth Social Thursday morning:

If the corrupt politicians of Minnesota don't obey the law and stop the professional agitators and insurrectionists from attacking the patriots of I.C.E., who are only doing their job, I will institute the INSURRECTION ACT, which many presidents have done before me, and quickly put an end to the travesty that is taking place in that once great state.

"If the corrupt politicians of Minnesota don't obey the law & stop the professional agitators



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& insurrectionists from attacking the Patriots of I.C.E., who are only trying to do their job, I will institute the INSURRECTION ACT, which many Presidents have done..." – President Trump pic.twitter.com/d7XJMA7qUU

— The White House (@WhiteHouse) [January 15, 2026](#)

"Whenever the President considers that unlawful obstructions, combinations, or assemblages, or rebellion against the authority of the United States, make it impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States in any State by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, he may call into Federal service such of the militia of any State, and use such of the armed forces, as he considers necessary to enforce those laws or to suppress the rebellion," [the act says](#).

Several Republicans said they didn't like the idea, [The Hill reported today](#).

"Asked if invoking the Insurrection Act to deploy troops to Minneapolis to quell the protests would be appropriate, Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) responded, 'Probably not,'" the website reported.

Others were equally disapproving:

- Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska: "I have felt that since the fatal shooting [of Renee Good] a week or so ago that we needed to be very, very careful, very cautious in how we proceed, not only in Minnesota but in other areas, to keep the conflict — the potential for conflict as it relates to ICE enforcement — dialed back. I've said several times that this feels like a climate that we went through during the time of George Floyd."
- Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky: "I think that we need to calm the country down, not head further toward chaos."
- Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota: Local authorities must help "settle things down."

GOP senators try to talk Trump down from invoking Insurrection Act in Minneapolis
<https://t.co/DIa6n4391u>

— The Hill (@thehill) [January 16, 2026](#)

Time to invoke the Insurrection Act <https://t.co/pkTdBJVcxT>

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [January 16, 2026](#)

Others disagree, notably, X proprietor Elon Musk, who told his 232.2 million followers that it was "time to invoke" the act. Musk reposted data from Insurrection Barbie, who has one million followers:

1. The Insurrection Act has been invoked 30 times by 17 different presidents.
2. In fact, 37% of American presidents have invoked the Insurrection Act.
3. It was invoked to deal with rebellions and uprisings.

What are rebellions and uprisings?

Examples:

- Armed groups openly defied federal law



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- State or local authorities could not or would not enforce federal law
- Violence or organized resistance threatened the authority of the federal government
- Courts were blocked, taxes couldn't be collected, or officials were attacked

Look I just described Minnesota.

Nonetheless, Trump, for all his bluster, backed down.

"Well, the Insurrection Act, which has been used by 48 percent of the presidents as of this moment ... if you look at it," Trump told reporters today:

I believe it was Bush, the elder Bush, he used it. I think 28 times. It's been used a lot. If I needed it I'd use it, I don't think there's any reason right now to use it. But if I needed it, I'd use it, it's very powerful.

President Trump says he does not plan to invoke the Insurrection Act right now, 'I will if I need to'. The protests are so weak and the arrests are stacking, it is not necessary at this time; humiliating for the agitators. pic.twitter.com/hReibjIZO

— 🇺🇸Salty Texan (@texan_maga) [January 16, 2026](#)

pic.twitter.com/e2UscbnXeN

— Rapid Response 47 (@RapidResponse47) [January 16, 2026](#)

Then again, Trump also claimed he would control the city if Frey and Walz can't:

In Minnesota, the Troublemakers, Agitators, and Insurrectionists are, in many cases, highly paid professionals. The Governor and Mayor don't know what to do, they have totally lost control, and our currently being rendered, USELESS! If, and when, I am forced to act, it will be solved, QUICKLY and EFFECTIVELY! President DJT

Riots Continued, Goon Arrested

The anti-ICE rioting continued last night, as independent reporter Nick Sorter and others showed in video posted to X.

A series of posts late Thursday revealed what Frey and Walz are permitting:

🇺🇸BREAKING: Rioters are attempting to take down the fence on the back side of the Minneapolis federal building

Rioter says "We don't have the numbers for this yet."

DHS agents are standing at a distance behind the fence. STILL NO ARRESTS MADE. WOW.
pic.twitter.com/Aj4gsMDTDA



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— Cam Higby ☐☐ (@camhigby) [January 16, 2026](#)

BREAKING: Militants blocking vehicles outside Minneapolis federal building, demanding to know if occupants are "Nazis" before allowing them to pass

Monitoring the situation • Follow for updates

Support our mission: <https://t.co/necJTN3Vs5> pic.twitter.com/SWmGKH7Snz

— Border Hawk (@BorderHawkNews) [January 16, 2026](#)

☐ BREAKING: Anti-ICE rioters are now ATTACKING federal vehicles as they leave the ICE facility in Minneapolis

Federal agents are being overrun

WE NEED TROOPS HERE NOW! pic.twitter.com/icgDE6Cp7I

— Nick Sortor (@nicksortor) [January 16, 2026](#)

☐ BREAKING: A federal agent was just forced to pull his firearm as rioters attacked their vehicle and blocked them from driving

Same BS they pulled with me a few days back

These degenerate rioters are going to end up learning a VERY tough lesson if they keep this crap up. pic.twitter.com/nLkv66rJRU

— Nick Sortor (@nicksortor) [January 16, 2026](#)

☐☐JUST NOW: Mob of rioters in Minneapolis mistook me for [@nicksortor](#) and followed me to my car ☐☐☐

They threw ice chunks at me and demanded I take off my mask all the way to the car.

These violent leftists can't STAND independent journalists filming them breaking the law! pic.twitter.com/aulu2BKNDc

— Cam Higby ☐☐ (@camhigby) [January 16, 2026](#)

"As a reporter who has been on the frontlines of the Minnesota uprising since the moment it started almost 10 days ago, I can confirm Gov. Walz DID NOT [heed] your warning to quell the riots attacking ICE agents today," Sortor wrote on X:

Once again, state and local authorities REFUSED to respond to calls for help, and allowed agents to be assaulted in the streets, traps to be set by rioters to make agents slip and fall



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outside their building, and allowed roads to be blocked, preventing them from enforcing federal law.

It is time to invoke the Insurrection Act. You gave Walz and rioters your legally-required notice to disperse. They ignored you.

The next step is sending in troops.

Dear Mr. President,

As a reporter who has been on the frontlines of the Minnesota uprising since the moment it started almost 10 days ago, I can confirm Gov. Walz DID NOT head your warning to quell the riots attacking ICE agents today.

Once again, state and local authorities... pic.twitter.com/fkrgOXc2Kk

— Nick Sortor (@nicksortor) [January 16, 2026](#)

We caught one of the individuals that was part of destroying the FBI vehicles. He will now be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

His life has been changed forever due to his foolishness. Don't be like him.

<https://t.co/m9sLDm7vmO> pic.twitter.com/cgKOY5b8ld

— Homeland Security (@DHSgov) [January 16, 2026](#)

As the unrest continued, the FBI arrested the tattooed goon [who broke](#) in to an FBI weapons locker in a bureau vehicle and stole what Attorney General Pam Bondi called FBI weaponry and body armor. Sortor had reported that an FBI rifle and ammunition was stolen. Rioters vandalized and robbed multiple vehicles.

Bureau chief Kash Patel confirmed the arrest. Not surprisingly, the thug is a Latin Kings gang member. [Fox News revealed](#) his name as Raul Gutierrez, 33.

As of this evening - one individual who allegedly stole federal government property out of an FBI vehicle in Minneapolis last night has been arrested.

The suspect is a member of the Latin Kings gang with a known violent criminal history.

Thanks to great partners [@ATFHQ](#)... pic.twitter.com/VBPXONK7H0

— FBI Director Kash Patel (@FBIDirectorKash) [January 16, 2026](#)

Today our [@ATFHQ](#) agents in Minneapolis, alongside [@TheJusticeDept](#) partners, executed an arrest warrant on a known member of the Latin Kings gang.

He allegedly stole [@FBI](#) body armor and weaponry, in addition to a long list of prior violent crimes.



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This criminal is a perfect...

— Attorney General Pamela Bondi (@AGPamBondi) [January 16, 2026](#)

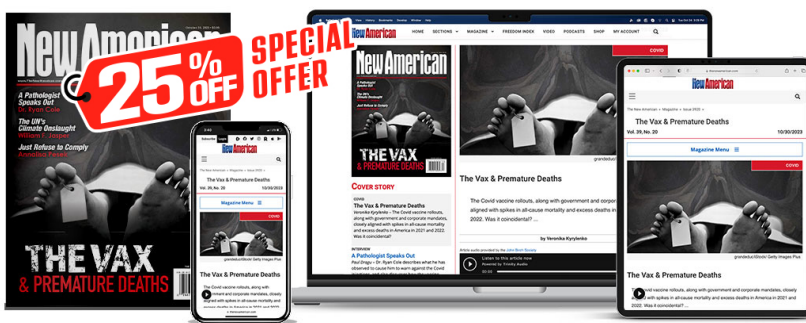


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