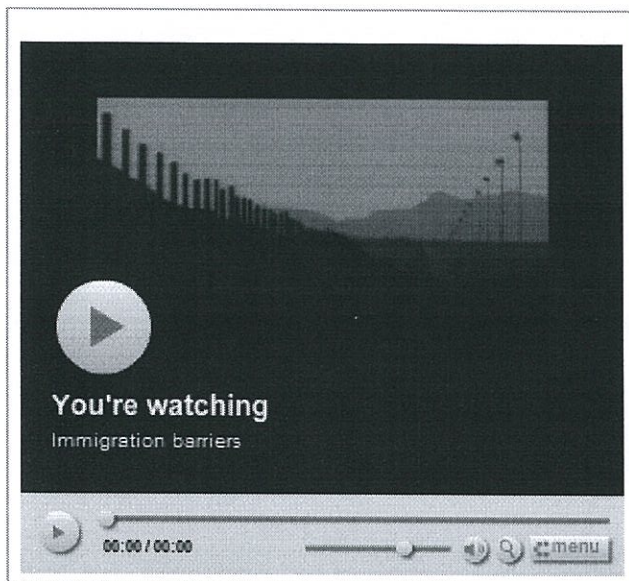


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JSO officer finds "undocumented aliens"



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DUVAL COUNTY, Fla. -- When police showed up to Shadow Bay Apartments, they thought they were coming for a fight between roommates. What they found was a world more.

According to the police report, officers found multiple people living in a one bedroom unit. When the smoke cleared, and a translator had been brought in they learned that the men worked for the la napolera restaurant chain and may have been living in the area undocumented.

When we asked neighbors about the suspicions, they sounded off. "They're just good people. They're hard workers. They go to work everyday. That's all I care," one neighbor said.

Lena Korial-Yonan has been working in immigration law for ten years. She says when officers have suspicions like these, the only thing they can do is hand it over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"It's up to ICE to decide whether or not this is worth while or should we look for bigger fish," Korial-Yonan said.

In Duval County, there's the 287-G law meaning officers have to make a lawful arrest before they can investigate someone's documented status.

"Under the Arizona law, they can basically stop you, but here in Jacksonville, they're not allowed to stop you. They have to have a reason to arrest you," Korial-Yonan said.

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Korial-Yonan says in a sense, the local laws limit the power officers have. She thinks Florida will soon follow Arizona with strict immigration reform.

"I see all of America going that way. This is the new immigration systems that we're living in these days."

At this point, with no real system of checks and balances, the investigation can't go forward. Police are at a standstill.

ICE tells Action News it is not investigating this specific case.

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