

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION ___-2026

Protecting Takoma Park Residents from Abusive Federal Immigration Enforcement

WHEREAS, the people of Takoma Park are horrified by the escalation of federal immigration enforcement apprehensions and removals in our community, the rising number of deaths of immigrants held in immigration-related custody, the failure of federal agents to observe fundamental due process principles such as obtaining judicial search warrants, and the recent killings by federal immigration enforcement agents of civilians involved in mutual aid, raising questions about the necessity, proportionality, and intentionality of such actions; and

WHEREAS, community members and observers have noted that the presence of multiple federal enforcement teams in our densely populated, diverse community has heightened fear, escalated tensions, and undermined the trust that this local jurisdiction, has worked so hard with its dedicated local law enforcement team to build with immigrant community members; and

WHEREAS, conflicting evidence and claims regarding guilt or innocence during the Minneapolis killings have intensified public scrutiny of federal enforcement protocols, training, and oversight, particularly in situations where local authorities are excluded from investigations of wrongdoing; and

WHEREAS, statements made by national officials in both killings, prior to the completion of any independent investigation, have exacerbated this community's concern about the erosion of due process, and the potential for racial, ethnic or political bias in federal enforcement narratives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has a long-standing commitment to safeguarding civil liberties and supporting immigrant communities and finds Federal law enforcement's actions and responses by Federal officials unconscionable and unacceptable because, as our Chief of Police [recently stated](#), "Our city is not a lawless zone. Every agency conducting enforcement activity here must comply with the United States Constitution, Maryland State Law, and the professional standards long required of American policing"; and

WHEREAS, our community is strengthened by the active engagement of residents, advocacy organizations, and local institutions who work with the local police to uphold constitutional protections for all people; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Takoma Park has already undertaken numerous measures in support of our immigrant community, including offering financial and infrastructure support, trainings and advocacy, we recognize that the ground has now shifted, dangers are intensifying, and circumstances are evolving so we must do likewise; and

WHEREAS, under Section 9.04.010 of the City Code, “no agent, officer or employee of the City, in the performance of official duties, shall assist the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the investigation or arrest of any persons for civil or criminal violation of the immigration and nationality laws of the United States”, and Section 2.20.010 of the City Charter states that the Chief Police Officer “shall be responsible for the preservation of the peace, the maintenance of order, the prevention and detection of crime”, which clarifies that when our local police are on the scene it is for purpose of protecting the community from any abuses from ICE, and not for purposes of assisting ICE with their activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council reaffirms its commitment to remaining a welcoming and inclusive City of belonging that supports policies protecting the rights, safety and dignity of all residents, regardless of immigration status, and supports approaches to public safety that emphasize de-escalation, accountability, and community partnership. With those objectives in mind the Council:

(a) **Directs the City Manager** to ensure that the Chief Police Officer promptly promulgates rules, regulations, and/or general orders (or clarifies existing orders and policies) to indicate that City public safety personnel should monitor (never assist) federal immigration enforcement agents as soon as they are reported to be present in our jurisdiction and for the duration of their presence, with the objectives of preserving peace; maintaining order; preventing or detecting crime; limiting the potential for conflict between federal and local law enforcement, and avoiding conflict between federal law enforcement and the community; and

(b) **Will convene**, within the next three weeks and with the assistance of the City Manager and Staff, forums with community members engaged in mutual aid and support for affected neighbors, to discuss how to enhance the collective ability of government and civil society to respond rapidly to changing circumstances, emergencies, and crises arising from Federal law enforcement abuses; and

(c) **Calls upon the Montgomery County Council and County Executive** to give high priority to consideration, final enactment and implementation of the **Trust Act, Expedited Bill 35-25**, which will codify law current policies that limit local participation in federal immigration enforcement activities with exceptions for public health and key operational needs; the **County Values Act, Bill 3-26**, which will mandate that all County facilities require a judicial warrant to allow entry by federal immigration enforcement agents, and prohibit immigration enforcement activities in County-owned parking lots, garages, and vacant lots; and the **Unmask ICE Act, Bill 5-26**, which will prohibit masking by all law enforcement operating in Montgomery County, and the Council commits to offering testimony and other advocacy in support thereof;

(d) **Calls upon our Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor** to give high priority to enactment and implementation of **SB1/HB 155**, which will prohibit masking by law enforcement officers with exceptions for public health and key operational needs, and the **Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values) Act**, which will prohibit agreements between state or local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities under **Section 287(g)** of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and the Council commits to offering testimony and other advocacy in support thereof; and

(e) **Calls upon our delegation to the US Congress** to support legislation designed to redirect the excessive Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) appropriations from the last Congressional session, through such measures as S. 3631, the “PUBLIC SAFETY Act”(redirects ICE dollars to local law enforcement grant programs) or H.R. 7071, the “Healthcare Reinvestment Act,” (redirects ICE dollars to extend the expired Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies expired on January 1), or other such measures; and the Council commits to advocacy in support thereof; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Council will transmit this Resolution, expressing the views of the Council with respect to the relevant legislation and in the appropriate format, to its Federal, State and County delegations.

Adopted this _____ day of February, 2026.