

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL


GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Todd Bettison, Chief
City of Detroit

THRU: Council President Mary Sheffield

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: February 5, 2025

RE: Inquiry on Implementation of Federal Changes regarding Immigration

Considering the recent change in federal administration, there has been a shift in immigration enforcement priorities that have trickled down to the local level. As a result, this has created panic and fear within the community, we are seeking clarification to better understand the Department's plans and to better educate the public on what to expect moving forward.

Please provide a detailed response to the following questions and concerns:

1. Does the department plan to adhere to Section 23-8-5 of the Detroit City Code prohibiting police officers from soliciting information concerning immigration status unless it's relevant to an investigation or prosecution of a violent criminal offense, or when processing an arrested person on suspicion of committing a violent felony?
2. How does the department define criminal activity in relation to federal immigration enforcement?
3. What is the department's official policy regarding cooperation with federal enforcement agencies and what Memorandums of Understanding or any formal agreements does the department have with federal enforcement agencies?
4. Will the department be involved in handing over detainees to county and federal authorities? If so, how long has this been in practice?
5. Does the department engage or participate in any task forces with federal immigration authorities?
6. What systems does the department use to share information with federal immigration authorities, and what access do they have to those systems? (Ex: LexisNexis, LEIN, Real Time Crime Center)
7. Does the department provide federal enforcement agencies with access to any local databases and systems (arrest records, gang databases, or other criminal history information)?

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8. Under what circumstances do federal immigration authorities have access to any talk groups or channels on the department's public safety radio network?
9. Has department officers ever been deputized under 287(g) or any other ICE program that grants local law enforcement the authority to enforce immigration laws?
10. What steps has the department established to ensure that immigrant victims and witnesses feel safe reporting crimes without fear of immigration consequences, and how has the department publicly shared information about this process with the community? (Ex: U Visas)

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison