

11/19/24

Dear Members of the Board,

I would like to ask you to please support the draft Welcoming Community Policy posted earlier this month. The policy is a thoughtfully crafted compromise that protects immigrant communities while ensuring our compliance with state and federal law. It is also very similar to other policies in many other municipalities in Massachusetts.

This policy is critical for ensuring that our town employees are not conscripted into enforcing federal immigration law at a time when our resources are already limited. The policy also assures immigrant communities that they can utilize town resources, including reporting crimes to law enforcement, without fear of immigration repercussions.

Any upcoming program of mass deportation will lean heavily on local law enforcement for support. That is why we must have policies in place now that reflect Natick's inclusive values. Therefore, I strongly encourage you not to give in to any calls to water down the policy with additional exceptions that could be used to undercut the policy's goals—the town simply should not be in the business of enforcing federal immigration law.

Most people in this country were originally immigrants, and we need to ensure they are welcomed openly and honestly for the betterment of our country.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on the draft policy.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Lachman  
19 Harwood Rd.