



Billy Walsh <bwalsh@natickma.org>

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## In support of Welcoming Community Policy

1 message

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**Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry** <revcindyfccn@gmail.com>  
To: selectboard@natickma.org

Mon, Nov 18, 2024 at 6:37 PM

November 18, 2024

Greetings Select Board Members,

I hope this finds you well. I am so grateful for your leadership and commitment to community. I experienced it personally when our church was vandalized in July, and I see it again as you prepare to discuss a Welcoming Community Policy.

As someone who is still relatively new to the area, I've been eager to learn about the process that led the current draft. I understand there have been thoughtful conversations with all stakeholders, including local police. These conversations are as important as the policy itself, as we work to hear and understand a variety of perspectives in our community.

I hope you will support the draft Welcoming Community Policy. I want all Natick residents to feel confident in their access to town resources, including reporting crimes to law enforcement, without the fear of immigration repercussions.

For sure I value this policy in part as a pastor in the Christian tradition. We are called to welcome the stranger, care for the most vulnerable, and love our neighbor. My faith calls me to welcome those who have fled violence, oppression, and natural disaster.

But just as important, I see the benefits immigrants bring to our community. We need the hard work, resilience, flexibility, and commitment to family I have personally observed in people fleeing to safety in the US. Too often the rhetoric toward immigrants has been grounded in fear and judgment. You can be a voice for inclusion and justice.

There may be mass deportations ahead, and those plans would expect support from local law enforcement. We need to have policies in place as soon as possible that reflect Natick's values and protect our community. I do not want town staff or Natick police to be forced to participate in the moral trauma that would accompany mass deportations. We need to protect them now.

I am not a resident of Natick, but I spend most of my time trying to care for people in this town. It is from that perspective that I urge you to vote yes on the draft policy.

Peace,

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
[253 America Boulevard](#)  
[Ashland, MA. 01721](#)

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry (she, her, hers)  
First Congregational Church Natick  
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

Please note there is an email / text scam where the author poses as a pastor and asks a parishioner to purchase gift cards. If you receive one of these messages, do not reply. I will never ask you for gift cards via email or text.