



Billy Walsh <bwalsh@natickma.org>

Welcoming Communities Policy

1 message

'Rolf Larson' via Select Board <selectboard@natickma.org>

Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 11:33 AM

Reply-To: Rolf Larson <racslarson@verizon.net>

To: Selectboard@natickma.org

Members of the Board,

I am writing you to share my support of the draft Welcoming Community Policy. Our immigrant neighbors need our support and they need protection from those who see them as dangerous in some way and look upon them as 'the other'. In fact, they are families with children who are industrious, pay taxes and work as hard as the rest of us – maybe harder.

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.

I have been involved in immigrant advocacy for many years and have had the opportunity know well many of our new immigrant neighbors. They reflect the best of our country. I urge you to vote yes on the draft policy.

Sincerely,

Rolf Larson
53 Speen Street
Natick, MA