



Bruce Evans <bevans@natickma.org>

Welcoming Community Policy

Celeste Larson <celestel Larson20@gmail.com>
To: selectboard@natickma.org

Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 4:40 PM

Dear Members of the Board,

I write in support of the draft Welcoming Community Policy posted earlier this month. The Natick Immigration Policy Coalition has listened and responded to many stakeholders in Natick about this issue and the policy they propose for your consideration 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 personal relationships with immigrants who live and work in Natick and I see firsthand the contributions they make to our town by providing leadership, paying taxes and contributing in so many ways to make our town a better place. I feel strongly that as a community we must protect the rights of all who live and work with us in order to make Natick a place that welcomes all.

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

Sincerely,
Celeste Larson
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