



Billy Walsh <bwalsh@natickma.org>

Support for Welcoming Community Policy

1 message

'Ernesto Feiteira' via Select Board <selectboard@natickma.org>

Wed, Nov 20, 2024 at 12:53 PM

Reply-To: Ernesto Feiteira <ej@feiteira.com>

To: Selectboard@natickma.org

Dear Members of the Board,

Mass deportation will be too costly and disruptive. I urge you to 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 critically important for several key reasons:

1. **Community Trust and Safety:** By preventing town employees from enforcing federal immigration law, we create an environment where immigrant residents feel safe reporting crimes, seeking medical help, and accessing essential town services. This builds stronger, more collaborative community relationships and improves overall public safety.
2. **Efficient Resource Allocation:** Our town's limited resources should be focused on local priorities like community services, infrastructure, and public safety, not on serving as an auxiliary enforcement arm for federal immigration agencies.
3. **Legal and Ethical Responsibility:** The policy upholds our town's commitment to equal protection and dignity for all residents, regardless of immigration status. It ensures that local government remains focused on serving the entire community.

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

Sincerely,

Ernie

Ernie Feiteira

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