



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION
MEETING DATE	FEBRUARY 2, 2026

ITEM:	Listening Session Follow-up and Collation Planning Update	
<i>Aaron Chirpich – City Manager</i>		
DEPARTMENT: Administration	BY/DATE: Aaron Chirpich / January 29, 2026	
<p>CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an “X” in front of the selected text below)</i></p> <p>X Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity X Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking</p> <p>X High Quality Public Spaces X Resilient and Prosperous Economy</p> <p>X Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone X Inclusive and Connected Community</p>		

BACKGROUND LISTENING SESSION

On January 27, the City hosted a town hall listening session to hear community concerns and perspectives regarding recent federal immigration enforcement actions occurring within the City. The session provided residents with an opportunity to share experiences, ask questions, and express priorities related to public safety, trust in local government, and the City’s role in responding to federal actions.

Community members expressed a range of views, with recurring themes including the importance of maintaining trust between residents and the City, clarity regarding the City’s role and authority related to federal immigration enforcement, and interest in potential policy responses the City could consider.

Staff would like feedback from the Council regarding whether there are specific action items the Council would like staff to bring forward for future consideration. Potential actions may include, but are not limited to, ordinances, resolutions, or statements addressing the use of City-owned property by federal immigration agencies, or other measures within the City’s legal authority.

BACKGROUND ON COLLATION OF CITIES

In early January, the City was invited to participate in an emerging coalition of Minnesota cities that are working collaboratively to develop a coordinated strategy in response to the recent surge of federal immigration enforcement activity in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Initial participating cities include Edina, Minnetonka, Saint Louis Park, Golden Valley, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Richfield, Bloomington, Plymouth, Hopkins, Eden Prairie, Burnsville, Chaska, Chanhassen, and Columbia Heights. Additional cities are expected to be invited to participate in the coming weeks.

The coalition has retained Momentum Advocacy, a government relations, crisis communications, and public affairs consulting firm, to support this work. The City of Minnetonka is serving as the lead city and will manage the contract with Momentum Advocacy. Participating cities will be billed by Minnetonka at the conclusion of the engagement. The duration of the contract will be dependent on how immigration enforcement operations evolve over the coming months. The estimated cost of the consulting services is approximately \$10,000 per

month, to be split among all participating cities. Based on current participation levels and anticipated duration, the total cost to the City of Columbia Heights is expected to range between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The coalition seeks to establish a coordinated regional strategy with a focus on:

- Coordinated and strategic communications and media engagement:
- Coalition Growth (adding additional cities)
- State-level policy coordination; and
- Federal-level engagement and De-escalation.

Staff believe that participation in this regional effort would be beneficial to the City, providing access to coordinated messaging, shared resources, and regional policy alignment during a period of rapidly evolving federal activity. Staff are seeking Council feedback regarding participation in this coalition under the outlined framework.

Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions
Staff are seeking feedback and direction regarding future action items and participation in the collation effort.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Online submissions from listening session
- Q & A summary from listening session