

City of Spring Lake Park Staff Report



Agenda Date	Status
March 2, 2026 Work Session	
Requestor	Agenda Section
Councilmember Moran	Discussion
Agenda Item #: 2c	
City Communications Regarding Federal Enforcement Activity	
Executive Summary	
<p>At the request of Councilmember Moran, this item has been placed on the agenda to discuss recent federal immigration enforcement activity in the metro area and the questions it has generated regarding the City’s role. The Council is asked to consider whether a formal public statement or additional communication is warranted and, if so, to provide direction on the content and tone of such communication.</p>	
Background	
<p>Earlier this year, federal authorities initiated what has been referred to as “Operation Metro Surge,” a coordinated immigration enforcement effort occurring across multiple communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including activity within Spring Lake Park. The enforcement activity prompted questions from residents and businesses regarding the City’s role and responsibilities.</p>	
<p>In response to those inquiries, the City has utilized a prepared statement to guide staff communications. That statement clarifies that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility; that the Spring Lake Park Police Department is not involved in immigration enforcement and has not been asked to participate; that federal agencies operate independently of the City; and that concerns regarding federal activity should be directed to the appropriate federal oversight agencies. The statement also reaffirms the City’s commitment to public safety and the well-being of all residents.</p>	
<p>Councilmember Moran has requested that the Council hold a discussion regarding whether the City Council should issue an official statement on this matter. The purpose of the discussion is to determine if additional communication from the governing body is warranted and, if so, to provide direction regarding its scope and tone.</p>	

Board/Commission Review

N/A

Financial Impact

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff notes that the enforcement surge appears to be winding down and that the City's existing communication has provided factual clarification regarding the City's limited role. Staff recommends that the Council carefully consider the objective and practical value of issuing an additional formal statement at this time, including whether it would provide new information, strengthen community understanding, or instead create unintended division or intergovernmental complications. If the Council determines that a statement is appropriate, staff recommends that it remain focused on clarifying the City's role, reaffirming public safety priorities, and maintaining constructive intergovernmental relationships.

Attachments

1. Current Statement
2. LMC Handout – Questions to Ask Before Issuing a Statement
3. Other Community Statements

Spring Lake Park - Police Department Statement to Residents

We have received some inquiries regarding federal LE efforts happening in our communities and what our role is in that. Thank you to everyone that has reached out to us, rather than going online and making assumptions one way or another.

The Spring Lake Park Police Department is not involved in immigration enforcement and defers all immigration enforcement to federal authorities. We have also not been asked by federal agencies to be involved in any actions either.

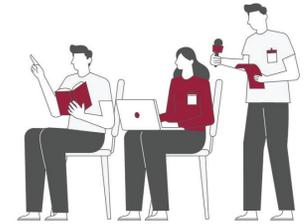
Federal agents have been active in most cities across the metro area and many more cities across the State, including within the City of Spring Lake Park.

Many of the agents are enforcing or conducting investigations related to immigration law. They do not notify us when they are coming nor notify us when they leave. Although we cannot provide legal advice or individualized guidance to businesses or residents, we do encourage businesses and residents to consult with their legal counsel for specific guidance and encourage residents to educate themselves on the applicable provisions of federal law and their rights thereunder. We continue to work with our schools and local interested parties to ensure the safety of our youth and all those who want to exercise their 1st Amendment rights.

If we observe apparent misconduct or a civil rights violation occurring in Spring Lake Park, we will promptly report that to the appropriate authorities. As a municipality, we do not have legal authority over federal law enforcement. If people experience or personally observe federal law enforcement activity that they feel is concerning, they can contact the applicable federal department responsible for oversight. Specific concerns about ICE activity should be directed to the Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for ICE oversight.

We care deeply about our residents and community and your safety is our top priority. I hope this answers some of the questions/concerns that have been surfacing. I encourage people to reach out to me directly should you have additional questions or concerns.

Questions to ask before issuing a statement:



Does the issue directly impact our members and/or staff?

Does our voice add value to the conversation?

Does what we say have the potential to change or impact the situation?

Is anyone asking for our opinion?

Who benefits from us making a statement?

Who is harmed?

Does our statement truly reflect the full membership/organization?

Are we experts in this issue?

Do we have enough information about the situation to comment?

Does a statement adhere to our values, goals, and mission?

Immigration Resources

The City of Fridley has received a variety of inquiries during heightened federal immigration enforcement operations in our region. A webpage has been created to house resources including flyers, statements and messaging from City leaders, and a question and answer section.

[Immigration Resources \(https://www.fridleymn.gov/Public-Safety/Police/Immigration-Resources\)](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Public-Safety/Police/Immigration-Resources)

[Home \(https://www.fridleymn.gov/Home\)](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Home) / **Fridley Public Safety Statement Regarding Immigration Enforcement**

Fridley Public Safety Statement Regarding Immigration Enforcement

Published on January 09, 2026

The Fridley Public Safety Department is aware of federal immigration enforcement activity occurring within our community. Immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government. The federal government does not notify the Fridley Public Safety Department of current operations.



Fridley Public Safety enforces only state and local laws. Our role is narrowly focused on maintaining public safety, preserving life and keeping the peace.

The “Statement on Immigration Enforcement” was created in early 2017 and represents the decades-long practice of the Fridley Public Safety Department. Our mission remains to provide impartial and professional public safety services to every member of our community.

Statement on Immigration Enforcement

- In the past, the Fridley Police Department has not made a practice of questioning people about their immigration status. The Fridley Police Department will continue this practice, unless a person’s immigration status specifically relates to an active investigation.
- The Fridley Police Department will provide fair and impartial police services to **all persons**, regardless of their immigration status.
- The Fridley Police Department participates in the U-Visa Program, which provides legal status to victims and witnesses of serious crimes if they cooperate with law enforcement during a criminal investigation.
- The Fridley Police Department will assist local, state and federal law enforcement partners, when requested, with executing search warrants, arrest warrants, or other lawful orders as required by law.
- The City of Fridley is not defined as a “Sanctuary City”, either by policy or practice. However, the Fridley Police Department will not actively seek out any individual for reasons based solely upon that individual’s actual or perceived immigration status, unless specifically required by a warrant or court order.

Statement in Other Languages

- [Spanish - Statement on Immigration Enforcement](/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_spanish.pdf) (PDF, 577KB)
(/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_spanish.pdf)
- [Hmong - Statement on Immigration Enforcement](/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_hmong.pdf) (PDF, 579KB)
(/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_hmong.pdf)

- [Somali - Statement on Immigration Enforcement](#) ^(PDF, 576KB) [\(/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_somali.pdf\)](#)
- [Arabic - Statement on Immigration Enforcement](#) ^(PDF, 591KB) [\(/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_arabic.pdf\)](#)
- [English - Statement on Immigration Enforcement](#) ^(PDF, 575KB) [\(/files/assets/city/v/1/public-safety/documents/immigration-enforcement-statement_english.pdf\)](#)

Tagged as:

General News

City Council Statement Regarding Federal Immigration Enforcement

Statement from the Columbia Heights City Council:

Over the past two weeks, the Columbia Heights City Council, City first responders, City staff, and Mayor Amáda have received many calls, emails, and messages from concerned residents asking about the presence of federal immigration agents in our city.

We have seen the trauma. We have seen the fear in our community's eyes. We have heard from seniors, students, and families. We have met with business owners, school board members, and neighbors who have experienced these harms firsthand. We have been present. We have listened. And we believe our community.

Neighbors have reported agents near schools, parks, streets, businesses, and public buildings—places meant to be safe for children and families. Instead, many people now feel watched, targeted, and afraid.

We have also heard reports of agents refusing to show warrants, ignoring due process, and harassing residents and business owners. These actions are deeply concerning.

Public spaces belong to the people of Columbia Heights. No one should be afraid to go to school, go to work, worship, or use City spaces.

Our immigrant neighbors are not strangers. They are our friends, coworkers, classmates, and loved ones. You belong here.

The Columbia Heights Police Department does not enforce immigration laws and does not ask about immigration status. Its role is to protect the safety of all residents.

We are asking federal immigration agents to remove themselves from our public spaces and stop actions that are harming our community. We believe this is morally wrong.

Columbia Heights chooses care over fear and community over division. We stand with our neighbors.

— The Columbia Heights City Council

Community Resources

View [resources](#) related to federal immigration enforcement activity.

Attend the [Community Listening Session](#) on Tue, Jan 27.

View the City's [Oct 8, 2025, statement regarding ICE activity](#).



Statement on recent ICE activities

[View the city's statement on recent ICE activities.](https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/Our-city/News/Statement-on-recent-ICE-activities)

[\(https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/Our-city/News/Statement-on-recent-ICE-activities\)](https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/Our-city/News/Statement-on-recent-ICE-activities)

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(<https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/Our-city/News>) / **Statement on recent ICE activities**

Statement on recent ICE activities

Published on January 15, 2026

Updated on January 15, 2025

Over the past week, we've heard from many residents that the increased level of ICE activity has created uncertainty and fear across our community. It is also impacting our business community. We know you're worried about your loved ones, your neighbors, yourselves, and our community. The lack of information from the federal government, who is not coordinating with local governments or law enforcement agencies, does not help this.

Shoreview is committed to being a community where everyone feels safe and welcomed, regardless of immigration status. If you feel unsafe in any situation or have public safety concerns, call 911.

We are having ongoing conversations with our public safety partners, staff, and faith and community organizations to better understand what we can do to keep our community safe, including those visiting the community center.

If you wish to share your thoughts on ICE's presence in Minnesota, please reach out to your federal representatives below:

- U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar - 612-727-5220

- U.S. Senator Tina Smith - 651-221-1016
- U.S. Representative Betty McCollum - 651-224-9191

Your city council and city leadership will continue to work on your behalf towards our vision of being a welcoming, safe community for all.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out. Stay safe and take care of each other.

Questions?

Mayor Sue Denkinger, sdenkinger@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:sdenkinger@shoreviewmn.gov>).

Councilmember John Doan, jdoan@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:jdoan@shoreviewmn.gov>).

Councilmember Paul Gardner, pgardner@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:pgardner@shoreviewmn.gov>).

Councilmember Shelly Myrland, smyrland@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:smyrland@shoreviewmn.gov>).

Councilmember Cory Springhorn, cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>).

City Manager Brad Martens, bmartens@shoreviewmn.gov
(<mailto:bmartens@shoreviewmn.gov>).

Resources

Know your rights

- We have rights (<https://www.wehaverights.us/>)
 - Short videos on preparing for and safely defending your rights during encounters with ICE.
- American Civil Liberties Union - know your rights
(<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>).
- Minnesota Attorney General - know your rights
(<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Publications/KnowYourRightsWi>

[thICE.asp](#)).

- Everyone has the following rights regardless of your citizenship status:
 - To remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
 - To refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home.
 - Constitutional rights.
 - To a lawyer if you are arrested. Ask for one immediately.
 - To record police actions as long as you do not interfere with their activities and are not breaking any other law.

Legal resources

- [Immigrant Law Center of MN](https://www.ilcm.org/) (<https://www.ilcm.org/>) | [651-641-1011](tel:6516411011) (<tel:6516411011>).
 - [Comprehensive resource lists](https://www.ilcm.org/immigration-resources/know-your-rights/) (<https://www.ilcm.org/immigration-resources/know-your-rights/>).
- [Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services \(SMRLS\)](https://www.smrls.org/) (<https://www.smrls.org/>) | [1-877-696-6529](tel:18776966529) (<tel:18776966529>) or [651-222-5863](tel:6512225863) (<tel:6512225863>).
- [Law Help MN](https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/immigration) (<https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/immigration>).
- [The Advocates for Human Rights' Agency and Attorney referral list](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Legal_Help) (https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Legal_Help).

Food shelves

- [Centennial Community Food Shelf](https://www.centennialfoodshelf.org/) (<https://www.centennialfoodshelf.org/>).
- [Keystone Community Service](https://keystoneservices.org/food-shelf/) (<https://keystoneservices.org/food-shelf/>).
- [Meals on Wheels](https://communityed.mvpschools.org/food/meals-on-wheels) (<https://communityed.mvpschools.org/food/meals-on-wheels>).
- [Manna Market](https://mannamarketmn.org/hours-locations/) (<https://mannamarketmn.org/hours-locations/>).
- [Minnesota Food Helpline](https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/) (<https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/>).

- Ralph Reeder Food Shelf
(<https://communityed.mvpschools.org/food/ralph-reeder>)
 - Ralph Reeder is also taking donations for rent assistance
(<https://www.ralphreederfoodshelf.org/donate>)
- Ramsey County food assistance information
(<https://www.ramseycountymn.gov/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources>)
- Ramsey County food resource map
(<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6162272bbdc64b22a57374d0d3d25e2b>)
- White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf (<https://whitebearfoodshelf.org/>)

Business resources

- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce - employer resources for immigration enforcement (<https://www.mnchamber.com/employer-resources-immigration-enforcement>)
- National Immigration Law Center - guide for employers on what to do if ICE comes to your workplace (<https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>)
- Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce - business and legal resources (<https://welovetc.com/>)
- State of Minnesota - immigration resources
(<https://mn.gov/ombudfam/resources/immigration.jsp>)

Additional resources

- American Civil Liberties Union of MN - what if I am stopped by the police or ICE (<https://www.aclu-mn.org/know-your-rights/what-if-im-stopped-police-or-ice/>)
- ICE detainee locator system (<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>)
 - Use the above link to find an individual who is currently in ICE custody or Customs and Border Protection's custody for more than 48 hours.

- Minnesota Immigration Services Hub (<https://www.lawhelpmn.org/minnesotas-immigration-legal-services-hub-initiative>).
- Minnesota Attorney General's online reporting form (https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Communications/2026/01/15_Federal_Action.asp).
 - Use the above link to share information on impacts of federal actions, as well as incidents that have occurred.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (<https://namimn.org/ice/>).
 - Provides resources to support mental health
- Northeast Youth and Family services (<https://nyfs.org/>).
 - Provides trauma-informed mental health services
- Ramsey County resources (<https://www.ramseycountymn.gov/your-government/open-government/ramsey-county-response-federal-actions/immigration-related-resources>).
- Xcel Energy (<https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/>).
 - No shutoffs through February
 - Xcel Energy is suspending disconnection services in the Twin Cities area through February.
 - You do not need to call to get this protection but note that bills will continue to accrue.
 - Help is available
 - You can visit their customer service portal (<https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/billing-payment/manage-bill>) or call 800-895-4999 (<tel:8008954999>) to talk through payment plans, late-fee removal, or energy assistance.
 - Xcel offers help in multiple languages.
 - Your data is protected
 - Xcel ensures your personal information is protecte (<https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/privacy>)d under a number of state laws and their own privacy policies.

Tagged as:

Announcements