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Minneapolis Connects: special edition update on federal actions

1 message

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Jan. 17, 2026

Get important updates at the Twin Cities immigration forum

The City of Minneapolis Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) in partnership with the City of Saint Paul Immigrant and Refugee Program hosts a biweekly immigration forum to offer immigration-related updates to the community.

The topics covered include:

- Federal immigration news and resources.
- City, community and advocacy organization updates.
- Other topics important to immigrant, refugee and new American communities.

[Find dates on the OIRA events calendar.](#)

[Email us to get a link to the meeting series.](#)

Learn more at minneapolismn.gov/oira.

Update on enforcement affecting Minnesota refugees

ICE is very active in Minnesota with Operation PARRIS that is targeting people with refugee status in Minnesota who have not yet obtained permanent residency (green cards).

We have heard reports of refugees with legal status, but without permanent residency, being arrested by ICE.

We are sharing this information, so you are aware and prepared.

Stay safe at home

- Download the [ReadyNow! app](#) and enter your emergency contacts, including your lawyer, case manager, family, childcare, and other critical contact information. If arrest is imminent, you can send multiple messages at the push of a button.
- Always carry copies of your immigration documentation and State ID with you (I-94, [employment authorization document](#) and Minnesota ID).

- Stay calm and do not resist arrest, even if you think the arresting officers are acting unlawfully.
- Memorize the telephone number of at least one trusted contact.

What to do if detained

- If detained, people may be processed at Fort Snelling and may quickly be transferred out of state.
- Family members should have a list of names, [A-number](#), and country of birth of all family members so they can find them in the [Online Detainee Locator System](#).
- Find legal services providers near detention centers.

Minneapolis is a Welcoming City; know your rights

Our City will always stand with all immigrant and refugee communities who make Minneapolis vibrant, diverse and full of life. Remember, everyone has rights. Be prepared.

You can find information from our community partners on the City's website, including:

- What to know in interactions with ICE (federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement):
 - You have the right to stay silent and to talk with a lawyer.
 - You have the right to refuse to sign any document until you talk to a lawyer.
 - You have the right to not open your door until you see a warrant.
 - Stay as calm as you can, and do not run away.
 - Learn more about [your rights in interactions with ICE](#) from the Immigrant Defense Project.
- How to prepare:
 - Make a plan to prepare your family.
 - Carry a “know-your-rights” card.
 - Keep your immigration papers on you at all times.
 - Meet with a lawyer to learn about your immigration options.
 - Learn how to prepare for an immigration encounter. Attend a workshop, information session or community hours.

Watch presentations in English, Spanish and Somali from Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid on the City's rights and resources page.

If ICE comes to your home

Everyone has constitutional protections regardless of immigration status.

Before opening your door to ICE, know your rights, as recommended by the Immigrant Law Center. Remember to assert them calmly and safely.

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota suggests the following if federal immigration agents come to your home.

- ICE needs a judge-signed warrant with your name and address to enter.
- You can ask them to show you the warrant through the window or under the door.
- If there is no valid warrant, you have the right to keep your door closed.

Find more [Know Your Rights](#) resources on our website.

Share the know-your-rights information in five languages

You can download and share the City's graphic and article on social media in English, Spanish, Somali, Oromo and Hmong.



You can share this information in these languages:

- English
- Somali (Soomaali)
- Spanish (Español)
- Hmong (Hmoob)
- Oromo (Afaan Oromoo)

ICE arrests of U.S. citizens

If you are stopped or detained by ICE, it is important to be aware of your rights. This is not legal advice. For legal advice, contact a lawyer.

If you are a U.S. citizen

There are reports that federal agents, including ICE, are detaining or arresting United States citizens.

- If a U.S. citizen is in the custody of ICE, a person can:
 - Seek legal advice
 - Contact your member of Congress.
- Minneapolis residents can contact U.S. Representative [Omar](#). Her office can inquire about the status of a U.S. citizen. They may need a privacy authorization from a family member and proof of citizenship.
- People living outside Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District should contact their representative for assistance.
- You can also [contact our U.S. senators](#).



If you or someone you know believe they were improperly arrested or detained by ICE, you may consider:

- Contacting the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota. The ACLU accepts reports regarding potential unlawful conduct by federal agents
- Share your story with the Minnesota Attorney General
- Resources may be available through additional civil liberties, immigration or legal advocacy groups

Read more and share this article.

Visit our Virtual Resource Center

Increased federal immigration enforcement activities in our city are disrupting daily life. Some people are afraid to go to work, school or the grocery store.

We created a [Virtual Resource Center](#) for community members to find partner resources for food, housing and mental health support.

Visit the [Virtual Resource Center](#) to find information including:

- Rent and eviction assistance
- Mental health resources
- Domestic violence resources

Download a resource flyer to post or share with your networks.

Small business resources during increased federal activity

How to access legal advice

The [City of Minneapolis Business Technical Assistance Program \(BTAP\)](#) refers eligible businesses to free legal advice from attorneys.

Contact the Small Business Team for a referral at smallbusiness@minneapolismn.gov or call 612-673-2499.

ICE or federal action at the workplace

Immigration officials may come to a business with a warrant to locate or detain specific individuals or search a location. The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) offers a helpful guide for steps that employers can take if immigration officials come to your workplace. [Find the NILC Guide for Employers](#).

I-9 inspections

An I-9 inspection, also called an I-9 audit, is an administrative inspection process conducted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). During this process, a DHS agent will request specific business records to confirm that the business's employees have appropriate work authorization. [Read more on I-9 Inspections](#).

Reporting threats



Threats to schools or students?

Call 911 immediately



This includes threats made online or on school grounds.



Threats to community groups or nonprofits?

Call 911 immediately



This includes threats made by calls, emails or online.

Amid ICE's divisive presence in our neighborhoods, we've heard reports of threats of violence against schools and community organizations. Call 911 immediately if you hear about or receive a threat involving schools, students, or community groups. Reporting threats right away helps keep everyone safe. If you have questions about your child's school safety plan, contact your school's administration.

Call 911 immediately if you:

- Receive a threat about violence directed toward a school or a student, or a threat on school grounds.
- See a threat on social media directed at a school.

Receive threatening calls or emails sent to a nonprofit or community organization.

Suspicious vehicles

Residents and community members can report suspicious vehicles on city streets. If you see an unmarked vehicle without front and rear license plates, you can [report it to 311](#).

Lawsuit seeks to halt ICE surge into Minnesota

On Jan. 14, the judge assigned to our lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security asked for additional briefings by both parties next week. That will be followed by a hearing. We are asking the judge to end the dangerous surge of federal immigration enforcement in our city. A decision has not been made yet on our request.

The lawsuit is about:

- Safeguarding the State's and Cities' ability to protect their communities' well-being
- Accountability
- Basic constitutional protections that the federal government is ignoring



Learn more

- [Watch the full Jan. 12 press conference](#).

- Read the news release.
- Read the lawsuit.

Find [more updates on the City website](#).

Attorney General asks Minnesotans to share impacts of federal actions

Attorney General Keith Ellison is launching a form on his website that Minnesotans can use to share information about the impacts that federal actions in Minnesota, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), have had on them personally or someone close to them, or that they have personally witnessed.

These incident reports may be critical in supporting Attorney General's Office actions defending and enforcing Minnesota's laws and defending the State of Minnesota against actions that violate the State's rights under the Constitution and applicable federal law.

Examples could include:

- Violations of constitutional rights (racial profiling, excessive force, retaliation against protestors, observers, and media)
- Business closures
- Reduced healthcare or education access
- Other issues impacting public safety and civil liberties
- Federal funding cuts and grant terminations or terms and conditions tied to federal program participation
- Other administrative actions by federal agencies

The office asks that Minnesotans not share rumors, media reports, secondhand information they cannot verify, or social media posts documenting experiences they did not witness or personally experience.

Send in a report

You can send your report in English, Spanish and Somali. Additional language options for this form will be added in the coming days.

- [Federal Action Reporting Form \(English\)](#)
- [Formulario de Reporte de Acciones Federales \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Foomka Warbixinta Tallaabooyinka Federaalka \(Somali\)](#)

Read more and share the Minnesota Attorney General's press release.

City response to federal actions

Here's what the City is doing in response to the federal government's actions in Minneapolis.

- Suing the federal government: The lawsuit, filed with the State of Minnesota and City of St. Paul, aims to restore order, accountability, and basic constitutional protections.
- Standing by City policy: The Mayor and City leaders have clearly stated that Minneapolis will not take part in civil immigration enforcement.
- Protecting City spaces: ICE is not allowed inside City buildings without a judicial warrant.

- Guiding City staff: City employees and first responders receive ongoing training on how to respond if ICE activity is reported, and how to protect residents' rights and safety.
- Working with partners: The City is tracking reports of ICE activity and working with community groups to share accurate information and resources.
- Keeping residents informed: We are sharing regular updates so residents know their rights and where to get help.

What the City cannot do

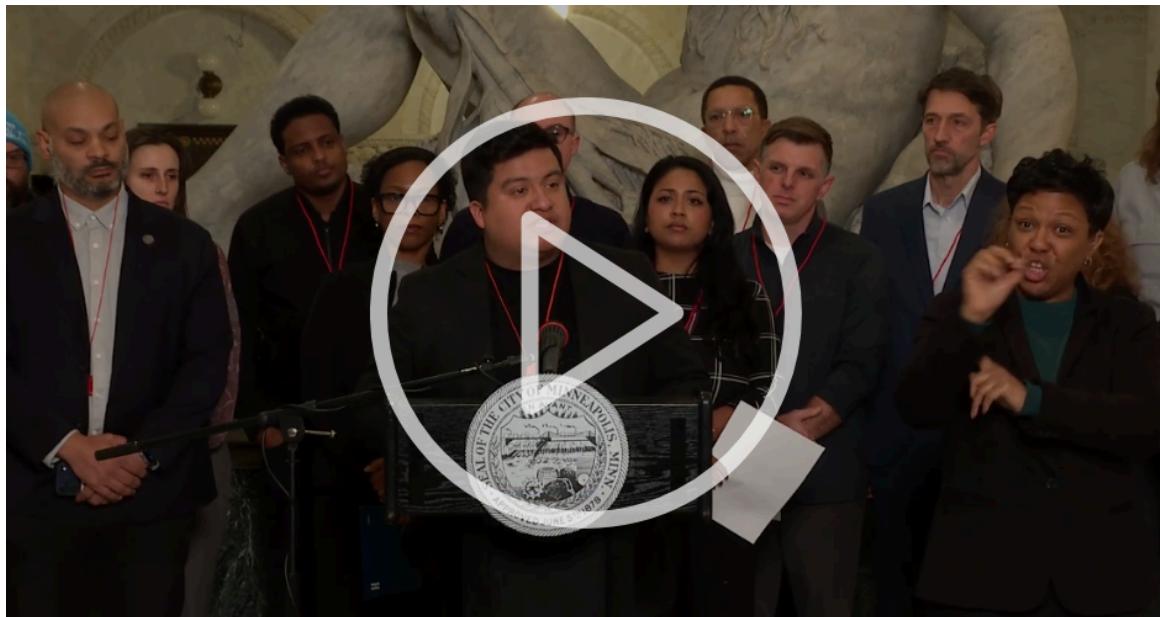
ICE is a federal agency. Cities do not have the legal power to remove federal agents or stop federal operations. We know this limitation is frustrating and frightening. Even so, the City is using every legal tool available to protect residents and uphold local policy.

Stay informed

You can stay up to date on Minneapolis' responses to federal actions through many channels:

- [Bookmark our federal response webpage](#).
- [Follow the City on social media](#).
- [Sign up for text or email alerts](#).
- Call 311 with questions by dialing 311 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. TTY users contact 612-263-6850.
- [Text or email the City, or download the 311 app](#).

City Council members speak out against ICE violence in Minneapolis, announce plans for updates



Members of the Minneapolis City Council held a news conference in City Hall Jan. 14 to denounce the federal government's brutal immigration enforcement activities.

State and county elected officials and an impacted community member joined the City Council in denouncing ICE's inhumane tactics.

They expressed support for community resistance and shared their own experiences. They encouraged continued support for neighbors and announced plans to begin sharing regular video updates via official City Council channels.

[Watch the full news conference](#) or a [highlight reel](#) with speakers.

Minneapolis Connects is published by the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR).

For questions, accommodations or alternative formats, please contact Neighborhood and Community Relations at 612-673-3737 or email us at ncr@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 agents at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-263-6850.

Para ayuda, llame al 311 • Rau kev pab, hu 311 • Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay, wac 311.

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