

RESOLUTION R-5729

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATED TO PREPARING THE CITY FOR SAFE AND LEGAL RESPONSES TO FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE CITY.

1 WHEREAS, in response to the federal budgetary and policy actions occurring under
2 the new presidential administration starting in 2025, the City Manager convened a Federal
3 Impacts Team (FIT) to evaluate financial and policy impacts on these actions on Kirkland and
4 to develop mitigation strategies for these impacts; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the presidential administration subsequently prioritized the identification,
7 detention, and deportation of what the current federal government defines as illegal
8 immigrants on a national scale unprecedented in modern times; and
9

10 WHEREAS, certain U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE) operations in other cities
11 have sparked conflict with community members resulting in violence, injury and death,
12 creating fear in both the immigrant community and general populations and raising serious
13 questions about the legality and constitutionality of some ICE actions and practices; and
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15 WHEREAS, to prepare the City for the potential of similar federal immigration
16 operations in Kirkland, the City Manager directed the Emergency Manager to convene an
17 interdepartmental team to identify actions the City should take to protect the safety and
18 constitutional rights of those who live, work, or visit in Kirkland while also complying with
19 state and federal law; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the DEIB division of the City Manager's Office (CMO) is part of national,
22 state, and regional networks, such as the State Contingency and Emergency Planning,
23 Racial Equity Council, Community Response Sync, Association of Washington Cities,
24 Governing for Racial Equity & Inclusion, City and County Partner Call, Partnership for a New
25 America, Welcoming America, and Federal Policy Updates, that meet frequently to
26 discuss impacts, resources, and find solutions to challenges to the immigrant community;
27 and
28

29 WHEREAS, Kirkland institutions such as EvergreenHealth, the Lake Washington
30 School District, and the Lake Washington Institute of Technology may experience ICE
31 operations and rely on the City for public safety support; and
32

33 WHEREAS, Kirkland police and fire personnel may be called to scenes of ICE
34 operations and must be prepared to respond in legal and appropriate ways that help keep all
35 parties safe, while complying with federal constitutional and statutory restrictions to not
36 obstruct legal ICE activity; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Kirkland employees at City facilities or in the field may encounter ICE
39 agents and must be prepared so that City staff engage in appropriate legal conduct during
40 any interactions; and
41

42 WHEREAS, Kirkland community members and businesses would benefit from
43 information and education on their legal rights and responsibilities when encountering ICE
44 agents; and
45

46 WHEREAS, proactive legislative actions such as adopting resolutions and ordinances
47 will benefit the community by demonstrating the City's values and further clarifying City
48 employee responsibilities in certain situations; and
49

50 WHEREAS, proactive actions by the City may help mitigate the impact on immigrant
51 communities and families that experience ICE deportations; and
52

53 WHEREAS, Kirkland City Councilmembers are sworn to uphold local and state laws
54 and the state and federal constitutions, and they are committed to equity and inclusion and
55 the health and safety of all members of the community; and
56

57 WHEREAS, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to making Kirkland a
58 welcoming city where everyone belongs by adopting: Resolution R-5240 in 2017 declaring
59 Kirkland a safe, inclusive, welcoming community for all people; Resolution R-5434 in 2020
60 expressing commitments to improve the safety and respect of Black people and examine and
61 dismantle interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism in Kirkland; Resolution R-5548 in
62 2022 adopting the City's DEIB 5-Year Roadmap; Resolution R-5686 in 2025 declaring
63 Kirkland as a welcoming, inclusive, and safe city for the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
64 Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) people; and
65 Resolution R-5693 in 2025 reaffirming the City's commitment to being a safe, inclusive, and
66 welcoming community where all people belong; and
67

68 WHEREAS, in 2025, Kirkland became the first city in the state to obtain the
69 Welcoming City certification, signifying that the City is a supportive and accepting
70 environment, with inclusive programs, policies, and practices for everyone, regardless of
71 race, ethnicity, color, national origin, immigration status, or spoken language; and
72

73 WHEREAS, a welcoming city provides a supportive environment through acceptance
74 and respect by committing to inclusive programs, policies, and practices for everyone,
75 regardless of race, ethnicity, skin color, national origin, immigration status, language spoken,
76 sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, abilities and disabilities, age,
77 socioeconomic status, home ownership status, religion, military and veteran status, minority
78 owned business, and political affiliation, as well as other groups and classes protected by
79 law; and
80

81 WHEREAS, aspects of federal civil immigration enforcement impact diversity, equity,
82 and inclusion and the City's stated and adopted values of being a welcoming community
83 where everyone belongs; and
84

85 WHEREAS, the Kirkland Police Department adheres to the Keep Washington
86 Working Act, which limits local involvement in federal civil immigration enforcement in order
87 to protect immigrant communities, and prohibits officers from inquiring into the immigration or
88 citizenship status of an individual except where the inquiry relates to a legitimate law
89 enforcement purpose that is unrelated to the enforcement of civil immigration law; and
90

91 WHEREAS, the Kirkland Police Department's Policy 411 prohibits officers from
92 inquiring into the immigration or citizenship status of an individual except where the inquiry
93 relates to a legitimate law enforcement purpose that is unrelated to the enforcement of civil
94 immigration law, and this policy aligns with the Keep Washington Working Act; and
95

96 WHEREAS, the Kirkland Police Department is part of the rigorous Active
97 Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) program, which is a nationally recognized
98 program that emphasizes peer support and intervention, helping officers step in to prevent
99 mistakes or misconduct by law enforcement before it happens, which aligns with KPD's core
100 values of honor, integrity, and courage; and
101

102 WHEREAS, in support of both the immigrant community and those who may observe
103 ICE encounters in Kirkland, the City has created both an Immigrant Community Resource
104 web page and a federal immigration activity webpage providing information, education, and
105 links to legal resources and other assistance; and
106

107 WHEREAS, there is an unprecedented tension between these City values and the
108 legal and constitutional issues inherent in some immigration enforcement activities that
109 require the City to proactively seek ways that reduce the tensions and increase the safety for
110 all parties related to ICE operations in Kirkland.
111

112 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as
113 follows:
114

115 Section 1. The City Manager is directed to continue and expedite internal policy review,
116 training, preparation, and legislative actions related to federal civil immigration enforcement
117 activity, including:
118

- 119 a. Consolidating interdepartmental efforts under an expanded Federal Impacts Team
120 (FIT) comprised of representatives from the City Manager's Office, City Attorney's
121 Office, Emergency Management, Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks and Community
122 Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, and other
123 representatives deemed necessary by the City Manager. This team will collaborate
124 internally to ensure the City maintains current and proper operational response
125 protocols that best protect the privacy and civil rights of Kirkland community members
126 and businesses, including the use of emergency proclamations as needed.
127
- 128 b. Reviewing and/or revising internal policies and procedures related to immigration
129 enforcement to ensure safeguards are in effect to protect community members and
130 comply with Washington State law and the U.S. Constitution.
131
- 132 c. Conducting regular reviews of these policies due to the rapidly changing environment
133 and conditions related to civil immigration enforcement at the federal level.
134
- 135 d. Training all City staff regarding information privacy and access to City facilities by
136 federal officials for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement. Staff training will
137 include notification protocols for immigration enforcement activity observed by City
138 employees in the course of their duties.
139
- 140 e. Directing the Information Technology Department to coordinate with departments to
141 ensure that any department deploying camera systems for community and staff
142 safety, including Police, Public Works, Parks, and the Municipal Court, are in
143 compliance with the City's security and data sharing policies and state law and to
144 conduct internal audits or oversee any third-party reviews of systems, as deemed
145 necessary by the IT Director. The City's current data sharing policies shall be
146 presented to the Council for review and potential updates.

147
148 **Section 2.** The City Manager is directed to continue and enhance education and outreach
149 regarding federal civil immigration enforcement in collaboration with stakeholders,
150 businesses, non-profits, institutions, and residents, including:

- 151
152 a. Coordinating regular meetings between FIT representatives, immigrant community
153 leaders and stakeholders such as community-based organizations, the Lake
154 Washington School District, EvergreenHealth, Northwest University, the Chamber of
155 Commerce, the Kirkland Downtown Association, other non-profit and civic
156 organizations, and faith-based organizations.
157
- 158 b. Directing the City Manager's Office (CMO) to partner with regional intergovernmental
159 networks of local city leaders and county and state elected officials to leverage local
160 resources and align response plans should immigration enforcement by federal
161 agents create dangerous and unsafe conditions in the local community. These
162 collaborations should leverage local, regional, and state efforts to support the safety
163 and security of the immigrant community and all other residents and businesses.
164
- 165 c. Directing the FIT and the CMO to coordinate with the Offices of the Governor and
166 Attorney General to request guidance around coordination and alignment of response
167 protocols and identify resource allocations in the event of organized ICE operations in
168 Kirkland and northeast King County.
169
- 170 d. Directing the FIT to establish "know your rights" information and education programs
171 that can be shared within immigrant communities and all residents of Kirkland.
172
- 173 e. Directing the FIT and the CMO to facilitate and provide education and information to
174 local businesses, non-profits, and institutions seeking guidance on implementing
175 workplace protocols that provide legal protection for customers and employees
176 without obstructing legal actions of federal officers.
177

178 **Section 3.** The City Manager is directed to develop legislation and administrative actions
179 related to federal immigration operations, including, but not limited to:

- 180
181 a. Proposing legislation for Council consideration implementing a one-year moratorium
182 on acceptance of permits for new or expanded detention centers in the City of
183 Kirkland until a comprehensive zoning review of land use and regulations is
184 completed and permanent code updates recommended.
185
- 186 b. Proposing legislation for Council consideration creating a process to provide potential
187 financial relief from fees, fines and penalties related to City business that may be
188 accrued by individuals, families, or businesses impacted by federal immigration
189 actions.
190
- 191 c. Evaluating whether the City may prohibit civil immigration enforcement activities at
192 city-controlled buildings or on other fixed-properties, unless required by federal law.
193 The focus should apply to City parks and open spaces, City-owned and City-
194 controlled parking lots, vacant lots, buildings, or garages and provide that these areas
195 shall not be used for staging areas to assemble, mobilize and deploy vehicles,
196 equipment, materials, related personnel, processing locations, or operations for the
197 purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement activities. If the evaluation

198 concludes the City may legally take such action, the City Manager shall propose
199 legislation for Council consideration.

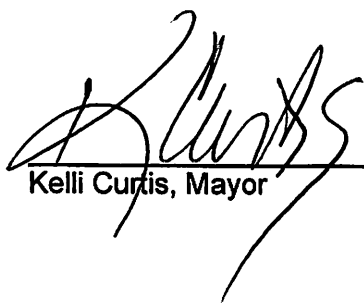
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- 201 d. Implementing a citywide policy that, absent a judicial warrant or other non-
202 immigration-related mutual aid investigation in which the Kirkland Police are working
203 with federal law enforcement partners, federal agents conducting civil immigration
204 enforcement are not allowed access to non-public areas within City-owned facilities.
205
- 206 e. Clearly marking all non-public areas of City facilities and posting with signs to prohibit
207 access to unauthorized individuals.
208
- 209 f. Evaluating actions the City may legally take to protect safe public access to ballot
210 drop boxes, prohibit barriers, prevent voter intimidation, and ensure free and fair
211 elections in the City.
212

213 **Section 4.** The City Manager is directed to reinforce Kirkland's commitment to
214 Constitutional policing, compliance with state law, and community education, including:
215

- 216 a. Ensuring the Kirkland Police Department continues to fully comply with the Keep
217 Washington Working Act and does not engage in civil immigration enforcement.
218
- 219 b. Ensuring the Kirkland Police Department does not obstruct lawful actions by federal
220 immigration officers.
221
- 222 c. Directing the Kirkland Police Department to develop response plans for potential
223 unlawful action by federal law enforcement officers. The guidance should include
224 information about protocols for responding to 911 reports from the public regarding
225 suspected illegal interactions between federal officers and members of the public.
226 This guidance should include but is not limited to: clear protocols for attempting to
227 verify law enforcement personnel who are not displaying official credentials; creating
228 appropriate documentation including the activation of body worn cameras as outlined
229 in existing policy; protocols for securing scenes when safe to do so; protocols for
230 securing witness statements; and guidance for officers about responding to conflicts
231 involving Kirkland community members and federal law enforcement.
232
- 233 d. Producing publicly available materials about the roles, responsibilities, and protocols
234 of the Kirkland Police Department, resources to help the public identify and
235 differentiate police officers from federal immigration officers, and a Frequently Asked
236 Questions (FAQ) resource, and information in other languages.
237
- 238 e. Ensuring requests for records by federal immigration officials are routed to the City
239 Attorney's Office for review to determine whether Kirkland is legally obligated to
240 release the report or information.
241

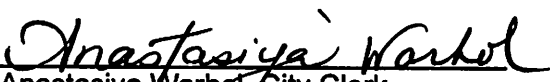
242 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 21st day of
243 April, 2026.
244

245 Signed in authentication thereof this 21st day of April, 2026.



Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:



Anastasiya Warhol, City Clerk