



**Written Testimony in Support of
Resolution Preventing Immigration Enforcement Activities on City Property
File 251634**

Submitted to: City of Milwaukee Steering & Rules Committee

Submitted by: Darryl Morin, National President, Forward Latino

Date: March 9, 2026

Dear Chairman Pérez and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Darryl Morin, and I serve as the National President of Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Wisconsin that works to advance civic engagement, economic empowerment, and public safety in Latino and working families across the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of the proposed resolution that would prohibit the use of City of Milwaukee property for civil immigration enforcement activities.

Thriving Communities Require Trust

At the core of thriving communities that are safe, provide economic opportunity and offer a high quality of life, is trust between city residents and local government officials and institutions. When hard working individuals from mixed status or immigrant families fear interacting with local officials, police and fire department representatives, due to fear of civil immigration enforcement actions, that trust is eroded and the whole community suffers.

Protecting Community Access to Public Services

City property, including libraries, health facilities, administrative offices, parks, or community centers, exist to serve the public and are paid for by Milwaukee's taxpayers, citizen and immigrant alike. These spaces must remain welcoming and accessible to all residents. When civil immigration enforcement activities occur on city property, it sends a message that these spaces are unsafe for immigrants and mixed-status families. This undermines the fundamental purpose of public institutions which is to ensure public safety, provide services equitably and foster community wellbeing.

By passing this resolution, Milwaukee would affirm that city property is intended for municipal services and community engagement, not federal civil immigration enforcement operations and would ease the fear and concern that is currently being experienced by so many across the city.



Page 2

Local Government Priorities

Local governments have a responsibility to focus on their core mission:

- Maintaining public safety
- Delivering essential services
- Promoting community wellbeing
- Supporting economic stability

Civil immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. Ensuring that local resources and public facilities remain focused on local priorities allows city leaders to better serve all Milwaukee residents.

Strengthening Milwaukee's Communities

Milwaukee's immigrant communities, including Latino, African, Asian, and many others, play a vital role in the city's:

- Workforce
- Economy
- Cultural vitality
- Civic life

Policies that foster trust and stability help these communities continue contributing to the city's growth and prosperity.

When residents feel secure accessing schools, healthcare, public services, and municipal buildings, the entire community benefits.

Conclusion

Forward Latino respectfully urges the committee to pass this resolution. Doing so will:

- Promote trust between residents and local government
- Protect access to essential city services
- Strengthen public safety efforts
- Affirm Milwaukee's commitment to serving all members of its community

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 888-351-4024 or via email at dmorin@forwardlatino.org.

Thank you once again for your time and serious consideration.



Page 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Morin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darryl D. Morin
National President