



Statement from Voces de la Frontera in support of Resolution 251634
Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director

March 9, 2026

Voces de la Frontera applauds Milwaukee city officials for standing in solidarity with immigrant families targeted by ICE and CBP through unconstitutional, violent, and often lethal enforcement tactics.

We are proud of Mayor Johnson and the Milwaukee Common Council's recent formal declaration condemning mass deportation, the unaccounted-for disappearances of untold thousands of persons, while calling for an end to ICE as an institution and for the U.S. Congress to build legal pathways for immigrants.

Today, Voces de la Frontera calls on committee members to support the resolution ensuring that no City-owned or controlled parking lot, ramp, vacant lot, park, or garage be used as a staging area or operational base for civil immigration enforcement actions.

We agree that that non-public areas of City-owned or controlled buildings should not be used for purposes of civil immigration enforcement except with a judicial warrant or when access is otherwise required by law.

Together, we stand for the safety and constitutional rights of immigrants who are living in fear. The current ICE/CBP tactics of racial profiling, warrantless arrests (administrative versus judicial), and unaccounted-for detainees denies Constitutional due process and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment.

Milwaukee's policy is now consistent with Milwaukee County and affirms local government rights to ensure public safety of city residents by limiting city property for escalated and militarized operations in and around schools and in our neighborhoods.

Immigrants, past and present, have contributed to the prosperity and culture of our city.

Immigrants are consumers, tax payers, small business owners, home owners and renters, workers, students and productive law-abiding members of our community. Every summer we celebrate the richness of our city's diverse cultural roots that have settled on indigenous "good land".

By passing this resolution, you are using what power you have to oppose the abuse of power and on a practical level support immigrants in feeling safer at a time when they need our support.



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These public policies are an extension of a community driven defense network rooted in solidarity and fairness.

ICE has arrested and otherwise detained likely hundreds of thousands of persons – many children – who remain unaccounted for. Just yesterday, a 28 year old U.S. citizen, Sunny Naqvi, was arrested at O'Hare airport and detained for 43 hours till she was finally released from Dodge detention facility. The status of her 5 coworkers, all with legal status, who were similarly detained is still pending.

In Milwaukee, Telemundo reported early on under the Trump administration, the arrest of a Puerto Rican family, a grandmother, mother and grandchild, who were released once ice realized they were US citizens.

These arrests are reminders of a racialized policy of mass deportation, disregard for constitutional rights, and of the need to set up strong structures of defense that unfold the judicial warrant standard to ensure due process and public safety.

MEC Suggestions

Voces de la Frontera applauds the leadership of Milwaukee Common Council members and Mayor Johnson, who now stand in solidarity with immigrant families, communities of color, and civic organizations targeted by ICE and CBP through unconstitutional, aggressive, lethal, and deeply harmful enforcement tactics.

Milwaukee has taken an important step by formally condemning the federal government's policy of mass deportation, calling for an end to ICE as an institution, and urging Congress to create real and humane legal pathways for immigrants.

Today, Voces de la Frontera calls on committee members to stand with our community and support the resolution prohibiting City-owned or controlled parking lots, ramps, vacant lots, parks, and garages from being used as staging grounds, processing sites, or operational bases for civil immigration enforcement.



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The resolution also establishes that non-public areas of City-owned or controlled buildings cannot be used for civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant or when access is otherwise required by law.

This policy is about defending constitutional rights and protecting our community.

Across the country we are witnessing enforcement tactics that rely on racial profiling, warrantless arrests based on administrative immigration paperwork rather than judicial warrants, denial of due process, and enforcement strategies designed to instill fear rather than promote safety.

These tactics undermine trust, destabilize families, and make entire communities afraid to interact with public institutions.

This resolution sends a clear message: Milwaukee will not allow its public property to be used as a platform for intimidation, racial profiling, or violations of constitutional rights.

It also aligns with existing county policy and affirms the authority of local governments to protect the safety of their residents by refusing to facilitate escalated and militarized immigration operations in our neighborhoods, around our schools, and within our communities. It also aligns with our MPD policy on immigration enforcement that upholds the judicial warrant standard. As well as the MKE county jail.

Immigrants are not outsiders in this city — they are essential to its strength, vitality, growth and prosperity.

They are consumers, taxpayers, small business owners, homeowners, renters, workers, students, and community leaders.

Every summer, we celebrate the cultural traditions that immigrants have brought to this city — traditions that have flourished here on Indigenous “good land.”

Passing this resolution is not symbolic. It is a real exercise of local leadership in the face of federal policies that are increasingly reckless, discriminatory, and harmful.

And the urgency of this moment cannot be ignored.



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Just yesterday, media outlets reported that 28-year-old U.S. citizen Sunny Naqvi was arrested at Chicago O'Hare Airport and detained for 43 hours before being released from the Dodge County detention facility. Five of her coworkers — all individuals with lawful status — were detained as well, and their status remains uncertain.

In Milwaukee, Telemundo reported that immigration agents arrested a Puerto Rican grandmother, mother, and child — all U.S. citizens — before eventually realizing their mistake.

These incidents are not isolated. They are the predictable outcome of racialized mass enforcement policies that sweep broadly, ignore constitutional safeguards, and place innocent people at risk.

That is exactly why cities must act.

Local governments cannot control federal immigration policy, but they do control their own property, their own institutions, and their own commitment to the Constitution.

By passing this resolution, Milwaukee is taking a clear stand:

We will not be complicit in policies that erode due process.

We will not allow our public spaces to be turned into staging grounds for fear.

And we will continue to defend the dignity, safety, and constitutional rights of all who call this city home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine Neumann-Ortiz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Neumann-Ortiz (she/ella)
Executive Director