

RESOLUTION NO. 17-427

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTION OF
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
FOR THE CITY OF AMES**

WHEREAS, the City of Ames devotes resources to law enforcement for the purpose of assuring the safety of all persons who reside in or visit our community; and,

WHEREAS, the power to regulate immigration is exclusive to the federal government and the enforcement of immigration law is a function of the federal government that currently resides with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the Department of Homeland Security; and,

WHEREAS, no federal law compels the local police to participate in the enforcement of federal immigration law and any such requirement would raise significant anti-commandeering issues under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, for as long as the City can remember, the Ames Police Department has not been involved in the enforcement of federal immigration; and,

WHEREAS, any perception that the local police are involved in the enforcement of immigration law will undermine the police-community relationships that have been built up over the years, and thereby undermine the ability of the police to keep the community safe; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential to public safety that every person, regardless of immigration status, who is a victim of or a witness to a crime, feel comfortable reporting crimes or aiding in the investigation of crimes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ames, Iowa, that:


1. Except as necessary for public safety as determined by the Police Chief or designee, or as otherwise required by state or federal law, the Ames Police Department shall not undertake any law enforcement action for the purpose of detecting the presence of undocumented persons or devote any public resources to the enforcement of federal immigration law;
2. This resolution addresses the discretionary use of legal city resources and does not:
 - a) prohibit, or in any way restrict, any official or employee of the City of Ames from sending to or receiving from, ICE information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 U.S.C. Section 1373);
 - b) affect or limit the enforcement of federal immigration law by federal authorities within the City of Ames;
 - c) affect or limit ICE's Priority Enforcement Program (f/k/a Secure Communities) whereby all fingerprints of adults arrested, or juveniles taken into custody, for a crime other than a simple misdemeanor, are automatically included in the federal automated fingerprint identification system and cross-checked against the ICE database, such that ICE is notified of that person's arrest and detention in the jail; or,

- d) in any way condone, encourage, or assist the violation of federal law which makes it a crime for any person to, “knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, conceal, harbor, or shield from detection, such alien in any place, including any building or any means of transportation.” (8 U.S.C. Section 1324).

ADOPTED THIS 27th day of June, 2017.



Diane R. Voss, City Clerk



Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

Introduced by: Beatty-Hansen
Seconded by: Corrieri
Voting aye: Beatty-Hansen, Betcher, Corrieri, Gartin, Nelson
Voting nay: Orazem Absent: None

Resolution declared adopted and signed by the Mayor this 27th day of June, 2017.