



DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"With the sanctity of all human life as our priority, we are
Committed to relentlessly fighting crime with trust and care"*

MEMORANDUM

Several people have expressed concerns over recent shifts in Federal Immigration policy and how that impacts your Des Moines Police Department. **Simply put: changes at the federal level do not impact the relationship Des Moines Police Department has with our community - all members of our community.**

Our Department Manual states:

"It is the policy of the Des Moines Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitment to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this department in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status."

As a local police agency, our jurisdiction is limited to the enforcement of municipal, county and state laws in our community, utilizing the Des Moines Municipal Court and King County Superior Court. Federal immigration law is the jurisdiction of federal officers and enforced through the Federal Court system. With rare exception, we do not have jurisdiction to enforce federal law or are specifically restricted from enforcing federal immigration laws by 2019 Washington State Senate Bill 5497, also called the Keeping Washington Working Act. The Washington State Attorney General Guidance on this Bill can be found at this link: [Keep Washington Working Act FAQ for Law Enforcement | Washington State.](#)

Our community can expect their Des Moines Police Department will not ask for, document or act on an immigration matter unless those factors are directly and materially relevant to **a local or state criminal investigation**, such as a victim of international trafficking asking for help because they are being held against their will.

Thank you for your continued support and trust!

Chief Theodore A. Boe