



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

May 26, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Justin Tseng, City Councilor, Emily Lazzaro, Council Vice President

AGENDA ITEM

26-098 - Amendments to the Welcoming City Ordinance (for referral to Public Health and Community Safety Committee)

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

WHEREAS, the Medford City Council passed the Welcoming City Ordinance to ensure that City resources are not used to assist federal immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, an April 2026 report by Citizens for Juvenile Justice found identified gaps in such ordinances — including its silence on fingerprinting, an 'incidental use' carve-out that permits the automatic fingerprint-to-ICE pipeline, undefined exceptions for police cooperation, and deference to federal statute that may authorize voluntary information sharing — that expose Medford residents to immigration enforcement in ways the ordinance was intended to prevent; now, therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Medford City Council draft amendments to close identified loopholes in the Welcoming City Ordinance, including restrictions on fingerprinting beyond what state law requires and removal of the incidental use carve-out.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None