



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

April 8, 2025

SPONSORED BY

Kit Collins, Council Vice President,
Justin Tseng, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

25-057 - Resolution to Create and Distribute Know Your Rights Information

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence and surveillance has sharply increased across the region, in the wake of Acting Director Homan's promise to "bring hell" to Boston; and

Whereas, many ordinary community members have been punished by this campaign to remove noncitizens and sow fear, intimidation and uncertainty; and

Whereas, ICE is especially targeting residents of color and activists for arrest, detention, and/or deportation; and

Whereas, all residents, whether U.S. citizens, green card holders, visa holders, or undocumented immigrants, are guaranteed certain rights under the law; and

Whereas, unhelpful, unchecked, arbitrary and unlawful detentions and deportations thrive on community members not knowing their rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution; therefore:

Be it resolved that the City of Medford create Know Your Rights informational pamphlets or flyers, and distribute and promote this information via the City's online communication and social media platforms, and at community centers such as Medford City Hall, Medford Senior Center, Medford Public Schools, Medford Police Department Headquarters, and the Medford Public Library; and

Be it further resolved that this Know Your Rights information cover common questions and concerns, and information about basic rights under the law, including:

- You have the right to remain silent.

- You have the right to not answer questions, including questions about your immigration status.
- You have the right to call your attorney.
- You have the right to see your warrant. ICE must have a warrant signed by a judge to arrest or detain you.
- You have the right to not sign any documents, even if ICE instructs you to.
- If ICE comes to your home, you have the right to not open the door. If ICE claims to have a warrant, you have the right to ask them to slide it under the door. If ICE agents do not have a warrant signed by a judge, they cannot enter a home without permission from an adult.
- If ICE comes to your business, you have the right to not answer questions about specific employees. You have the right to not introduce ICE agents to employees that they request to see.
- If ICE comes to your business, you have the right to not allow them into private areas of your business. If ICE agents do not have a warrant signed by a judge, they cannot enter private areas of your business without your permission.

Be it further resolved that this Know Your Rights information be available in English, Arabic, Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None