

CITY COUNCIL 7.B

CITY OF LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: Discussion: Protecting Immigrant Safety, Constitutional Rights, and Community Trust

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Estee Milburn, City Council

SUMMARY:

This resolution reaffirms Lynnwood's commitment to constitutional rights, acknowledges concerns regarding federal immigration enforcement impacts, affirms state law limitations, and promotes transparency, accountability, and coordinated implementation.

PRESENTER:

Isabel Mata, Council Member

ESTIMATED TIME:

45

BACKGROUND:

Across the country and within Washington State, recent federal immigration enforcement actions have generated significant public concern. Media reports and community accounts have raised questions regarding officer identification practices, use of force during arrests, prolonged detention procedures, and impacts on constitutionally protected activities such as peaceful protest and lawful observation of law enforcement. There have also been widely publicized cases involving the detention errors, arrests later dismissed by courts, and deaths occurring during or following ICE custody, contributing to increased public scrutiny and community discussion.

These actions have contributed to fear, uncertainty, and mistrust within immigrant and refugee communities, as well as among the broader public. Such fear can discourage residents from reporting crimes, accessing City services, participating in civic life, or exercising their constitutional rights. In addition, recent arrests of individuals engaged in lawful protest activity have heightened concerns about the protection of First Amendment rights and the role of local governments in affirming those protections.

Local governments across Snohomish County and the Puget Sound region have taken actions to clarify local policy, reaffirm constitutional protections, and communicate existing state law requirements to their communities. Examples include:

- **November–December 2025 – Cities of Kenmore and Bothell :** Adopted resolutions affirming support for immigrants and endorsing state laws promoting dignity, safety, and equity.
- **January 2026 – City of Seattle:** Issued mayoral and council statements addressing

community impacts related to immigration enforcement.

- **January 2026 – Cities of Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline, Everett, Edmonds, and Lake Forest Park:** Released statements, introduced or debated resolutions, and published public resource materials.
- **February 5, 2026 – City of Mountlake Terrace:** Adopted a formal resolution affirming support for immigrants and the rights of all residents.

These actions reflect a regional pattern of local governments reaffirming constitutional protections, clarifying the limits of local involvement in civil immigration enforcement, and emphasizing public safety and community trust.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Council discussion and feedback during the Work Session, followed by consideration of adoption at a future Business Meeting.

If adopted, the resolution requests that the Mayor:

- Ensure continued compliance with applicable Washington State law;
- Coordinate implementation across City departments;
- Enhance public outreach and access to information; and
- Prepare potential future legislative recommendations related to transparency and accountability, if appropriate.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTIONS:

2017: The Mayor, City Council, and Chief of Police co-signed Resolution 2017-03 reaffirming the City of Lynnwood's commitment to being a safe, welcoming, and equitable community for all.

October 30, 2025: The Mayor and City Council paused use of Flock Safety cameras after identifying compliance concerns under Washington's *Keep Washington Working Act*, highlighting the City's obligation to ensure compliance with state law and protect against the misuse of surveillance technology in ways that could undermine community trust.

February 9, 2026: The Mayor and Chief of Police issued a public statement reaffirming Lynnwood's commitment to constitutional protections, public safety, and community trust.

FUNDING:

There is no direct financial impact to the City, aside from potential staff time.

VISIONS AND PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT:

This item aligns with the City of Lynnwood Strategic Plan, Priority 4: Be a Safe Community.

Reaffirming constitutional rights, transparency, and lawful governance supports public safety, strengthens community trust, and advances Lynnwood's vision of engaged residents and accountable local government.

Lynnwood's commitment that "All Are Welcome" must also mean that all residents are able to

access City services, participate in civic life, and exercise constitutional rights without fear or discrimination.

DEPARTMENT ATTACHMENTS

Description:

[Resolution.pdf](#)

[Public Safety Resolution Presentation.pdf](#)